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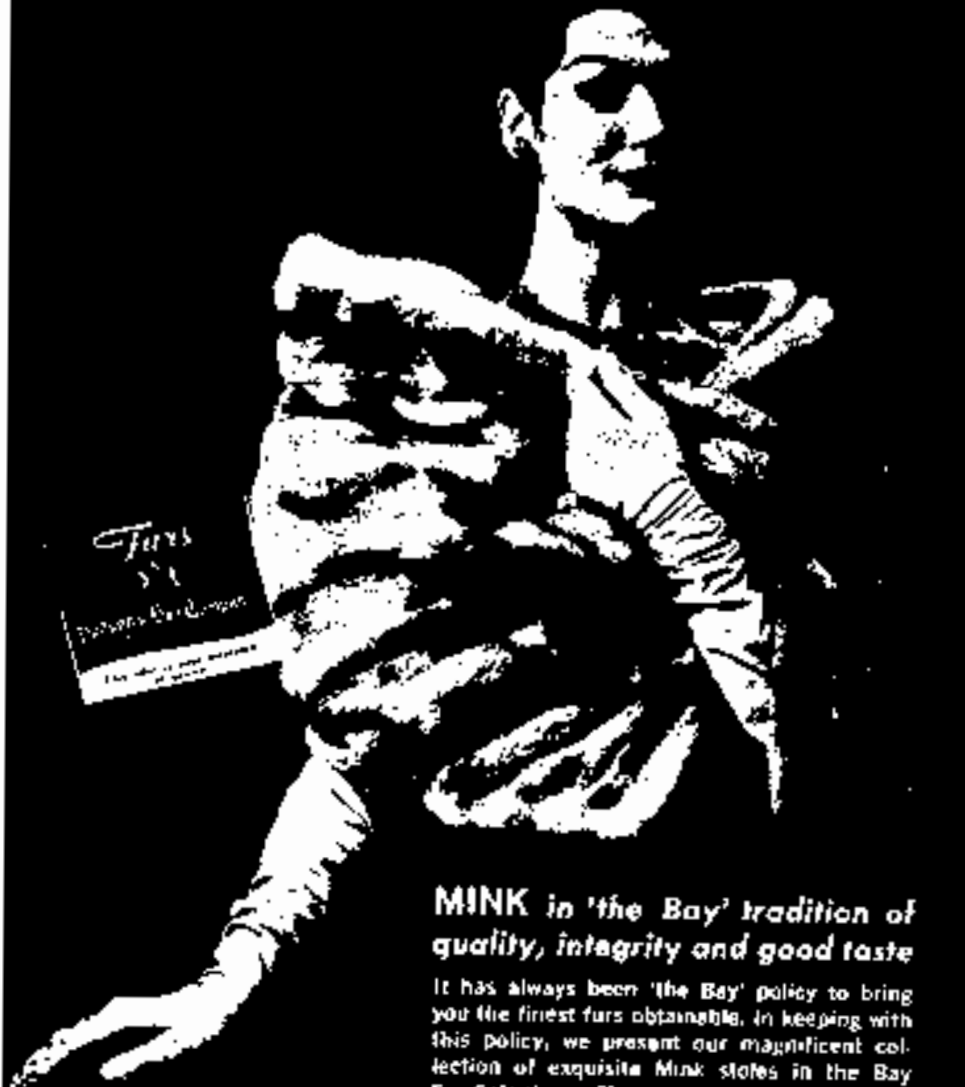
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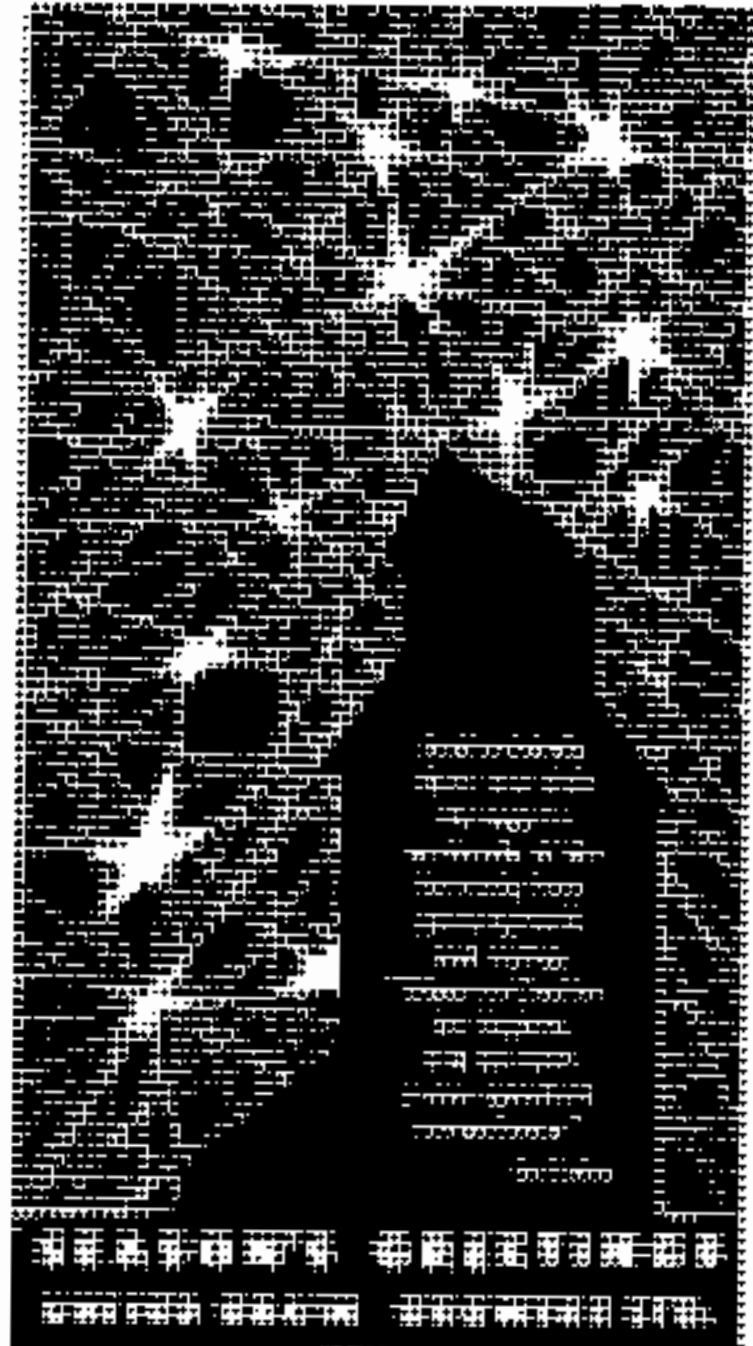
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# The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. XX No. 2	Winnipeg, Canada	Winter 1961
<b>EDITORIAL—Christmas 1961, Gustaf Kristjanson.....12</b>		
Guest Editorial, Caroline Gunnarson.....		..13
<b>FEATURE ARTICLE</b>		
Philological Aspects of Icelandic, Haraldur Bessason.....		21
<b>SPECIAL FEATURES</b>		
Visit of President of Iceland (continuation), W. Kristjanson.....		15
Canada Iceland Foundation and The Icelandic Canadian Scholarships, W. J. Lindal.....		23
The Founding of a New Iceland, Jon K. Laxdal.....		32
Conserving the Human Habitat, G. B. Gunlogson.....		44
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
Hon. John Christianson.....		36
John Frederick Hrutfiord, Albertina Johnson.....		39
Appreciated Service.....		37
Three Doctors Degrees Awarded by University of Iceland.....		38
Fiske Icelandic Collection.....		43
<b>POETRY—The Spirit of Christmas, Wayne Arnason.....41</b>		
The Dead of War, Steve Dewar.....		42
<b>BOOK REVIEW</b>		
Anthology of Modern Icelandic Literature, by Loftur Bjarnason, W. J. Lindal.....		45
<b>FICTION— The White Mansion by Elinborg Lárusdóttir</b>		
Translated by W. Kristjanson.....		47
<b>SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS .....59, 61, 63, 65</b>		
<b>IN THE NEWS 20, 27, 31, 35, 36, 40, 65, 67 NEWS SUMMARY 69, 71, 73</b>		

## THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

*The President's Visit*

by CAROLINE GUNNARSSON

## CHRISTMAS 1961

Another Christmas season approaches, and once again we hear the traditional greetings and the traditional hopes expressed for peace and good will among men. In this age of intercontinental ballistic missiles, of bacteriological and chemical warfare, of nuclear bombs whose destructive powers reach terrifying proportions, what can be added anew to the eternal message of "peace and goodwill" toward all men. At times this message may seem almost a counsel of futility, but nevertheless the need for peace—in this year 1961—has assumed such terrible urgency that we dare no longer think or speak of it in terms of mere platitudes.

What possible substitute can there be for settling international problems by force, other than that of settling them in assembly or across a conference table. And are not we—those of us of Icelandic ancestry—the heirs of that tradition which substitutes the rule of reason and persuasion for that of naked and brutal force? Over a thousand years ago some of our forefathers gathered together at a place known as Thingvellir and set up a rule of law through representative government. At the time, this was in many ways a unique institution, and its example has endured through the centuries. In fact, most of our western democracies have followed a similar pattern of parliamentary law.

May we dare hope that the world's statesmen will be successful in developing—on an international scale—an equally effective system whereby reason and counsel will prevail in the world, and goodwill and peace will be established in very truth. Not only our Icelandic, but surely our Canadian heritage cries out for the establishment of that condition wherein we may truly live together in goodwill and brotherhood as promised on that first Christmas nearly two thousand years ago.

Gustaf Kristjanson

The president of Iceland has returned home from a state visit to a country that did not feel foreign under his feet.

His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson told Reykjavík newspapermen that this was a pleasure peculiar to his recent tour of Canada. He had noted in passing that every fourth person of Icelandic lineage had now taken root in the two nations of the Western Hemisphere and many among them no longer spoke their ancestral tongue.

"But I think there is much truth in what one man said to me," he added, "We can be Icelandic in English". "There is much Icelandic in them," His Excellency remarked to the newsmen, plainly referring to the qualities of character and cultural heritage that speak through a people's contribution to life in their chosen country, whatever its official language.

It is a healthy source of pride to a Canadian to be so spontaneously hailed as blood-brother by the distinguished first citizen of his ancestral soil.

And it is a unique honor for a small component group of the great Canadian nation to be invited to stand beside its government as co-hosts to the head of state in their "old country."

Such elevation was gained by Icelandic Canadians by the state visit to Canada of the president of Iceland and his gracious lady.

The glow of honor and pride will leave a lasting reflection as we look back on the visit of their Excellencies, but it is understanding that joins the souls of men.

The president's sensitive perception of us Canadians laid his firmest claim to our affections. In Canadians who came to a wild and virgin land with nothing to invest but their Icelandic heritage of intellectual integrity and physical toughness, he saw the spirit of those who settled Iceland more than a thousand years ago. In the love and loyalty for the new soil that quickly took root in them he recognized that spirit, too. And with fine insight he understood that this was not to weaken the emotional and cultural ties with the land of our fathers.

He said so on many occasions, in many different ways.

It is true! The descendants of the immigrants are often unmistakably Icelandic in English. It is also true that the early settlers could be poignantly Canadian in Icelandic. This his Excellency sensed and understood. He reflected on it with some sadness because the language barrier prevented other Canadians from sharing the homage offered by our best poets to the beauties of the Canadian landscape.

He told the Reykjavík newsmen that travelling through Alberta, he was constantly aware that this was Stephan G. Stephansson's country. The poetry



that Canada inspired him to write was as great and as passionate as that inspired by Iceland, he said, and there was no conflict in his loves for the two countries. He would have been recognized as one of Canada's greatest poets if he had written in English.

"Landið sem mín vígði vinna,  
vöggustöðin barna minna."

As translated by Judge W. J. Lindal:

"Land my labors consecrated,  
Laureled by my children's patter."

Stephan was aptly laying his gifted Icelandic tongue to a universal human

sentiment when he said that in one of inspired tributes to Canada. It is man's true declaration of kinship with a soil he has consecrated with his labors, the birthland of his children. Here is no conflict between a man's love for his new country and his love to the one of his birth. It is not only humanly possible, but humanly natural to grow greater of heart, not smaller, with broadening emotional experiences.

Canadians of all origins have grown into a nation on the strength of that. God speed to any visiting statesman who understands us and takes home our message in his heart.



Miss Mattie Halldorson, Secretary of the Magazine Board, presenting a bound volume of *The Icelandic Canadian* to Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of Iceland. Nine volumes, covering 18 years, were presented. Future volumes, as prepared, will be presented to the President.

(Continuation)

## The Visit of the President of Iceland

The account of the visit of President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson in the Autumn issue of *The Icelandic Canadian* concluded with a brief reference to the itinerary after Wynyard, Sask.

The presidential plane touched down at the R.C.A.F. station at Penhold, Alberta, Wednesday, September 20th. The welcoming group included Honorable Robin Daniel Jorgenson,



Iceland President Ásgeir Ásgeirsson and Mrs. Ásgeirsson, accompanied by two Wynyard girls, prepare to take leave of Wynyard following an informal three-hour visit. The two girls are Laurie and Bonnie Thorsteinson, granddaughters of a boyhood friend of the President, Thorsteinn Gudmundsson, who came to the Wynyard district in 1910. They had previously presented a bouquet to Mrs. Ásgeirsson.

Minister of Public Welfare in the Alberta Government, and Mrs. Jorgenson and a number of people of Icelandic origin from Edmonton and Calgary. Mrs. Rosa Benediktsson, daughter of the poet Stephan G. Stephansson, presented Mrs. Ásgeirsson with a bouquet of Alberta roses, on behalf of the Women's Association "Vonin" (Hope).

At a luncheon in the officers mess at the Penhold station, Einar Stephenson conveyed greetings from the mayor

of Red Deer, and on his behalf presented to President Ásgeirsson a set of gold cuff links and a copy of "The White Chief", by the Red Deer author and naturalist, Kerry Wood. President Ásgeirsson spoke briefly in reply.

The presidential party then proceeded to Markerville, thirty miles south-west of Penhold, the home district of Stephan G. Stephansson. A large group had assembled at the poet's grave. Accompanied by two daughters



President Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, shaking hands with Páll Guðmundsson of Leslie, Sask., a brother of the late Björgvin Guðmundsson.

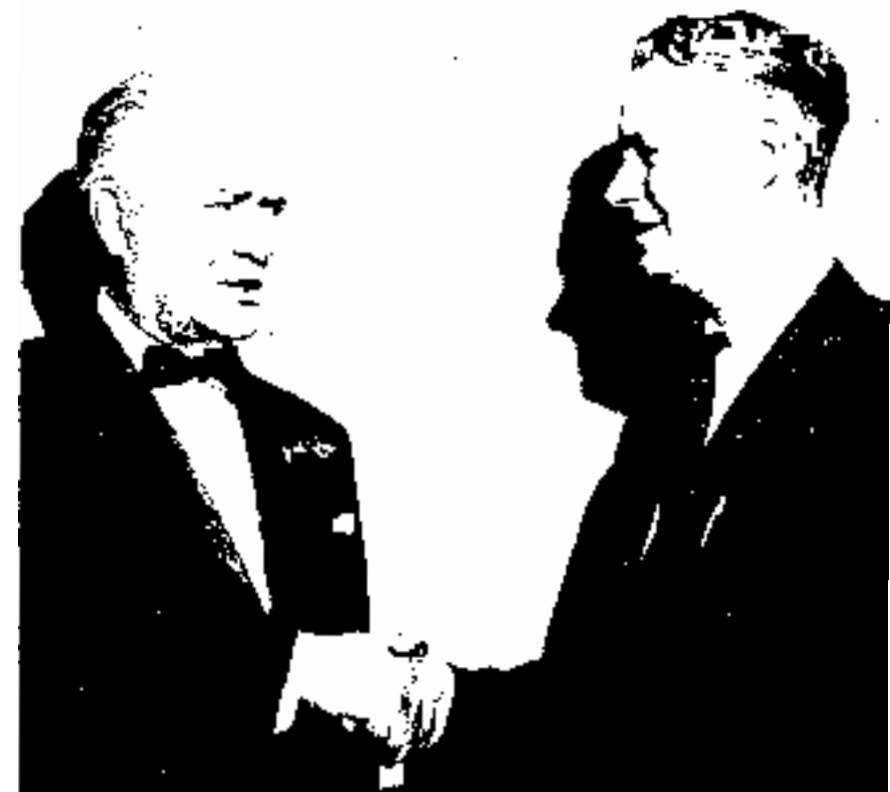
of the poet, President Ásgeirsson placed a wreath on the grave. Following a visit to the Stephansson home, he also placed a wreath at the poet's memorial erected near the village of Markerville, by the Historical Sites and Monument Board of Canada.

Refreshments were served in the Markerville community hall by the local Good Neighbours' Club, a women's organization whose members are of non-Icelandic origin. Here President Ásgeirsson was presented with a silver tray from the people of Icelandic descent in the district. S. J. Stephansson, a son of the poet, presented a gift from the family, a gavel and a sounding board, made of Alberta diamond willow by Kerry Wood. President Ásgeir-

son spoke of the greatness of the poetry of Stephan G. Stephansson.

The occasion was favoured with beautiful weather and the landscape presented its fairest autumn hues.

At Edmonton, that evening, a banquet was held in honor of the presidential party, at the Macdonald Hotel. About 120 guests attended. The chairman was William Halldorson, president of the Icelandic Society in Edmonton. Honorable L. C. Halmrast brought greetings from the Alberta Government and Mayor Elmer Roper, of Edmonton, brought greetings from the city. Mrs. Roland Decosse (née Margaret Helgason) sang "O Guð vors lands" and "O Canada". Glen Eyford delivered an address, and the chair-



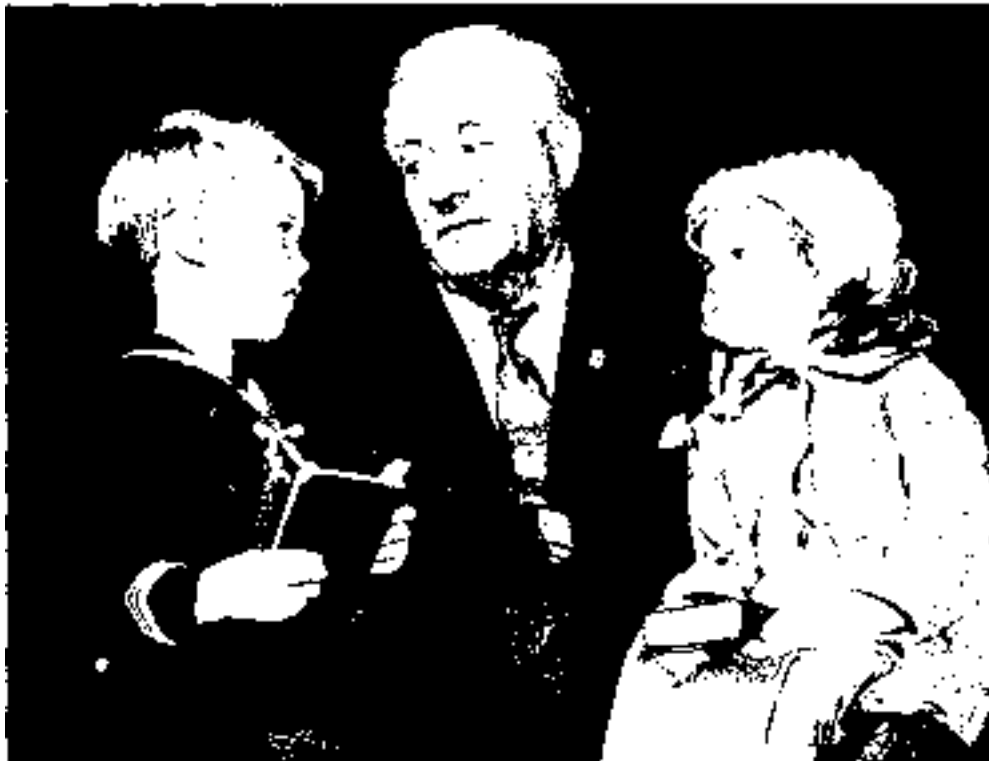
President Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, shaking hands with William Halldorson, who presided at the dinner in Edmonton

man presented President Ásgeirsson with an onyx desk pen set. President Ásgeirsson gave a short address.

The Icelandic community in British Columbia looked forward with the same keen anticipation to President Ásgeirsson's visit evidenced at places previously visited. On their arrival in Victoria, after a journey by rail through the Rocky Mountains, the the presidential party was greeted by Lieutenant-Governor George R. Pearkes, V.C., and Honorable W. A. C. Bennett, Premier of British Columbia. That evening, a banquet was held at the Empress Hotel, attended by about seventy guests. The chairman was Jon Sigurdson, Icelandic consul in British Columbia. Addresses were given by Mrs. Jakobina Johnson; Soffanias Thor-

kelsson, who expressed his appreciation to the Canadian Government for inviting President Ásgeirsson to visit Wineland the Good, and the guest of honor, President Ásgeirsson.

Vancouver gave President Ásgeirsson and Mrs. Ásgeirsson a warm reception. Nearly 500 guests were present at the banquet held in the Hotel Vancouver on Saturday evening. The guests included people from distant places such as Bellingham, Seattle, Oakland and San Francisco. The chairman was Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson. Speakers included Mayor A. T. Alsbury, of Vancouver, and Dr. Norman M. McKenzie, President of the University of British Columbia. Margaret Sigmar Davidson sang "Draumalandið" and "I Will Not Sing Again".



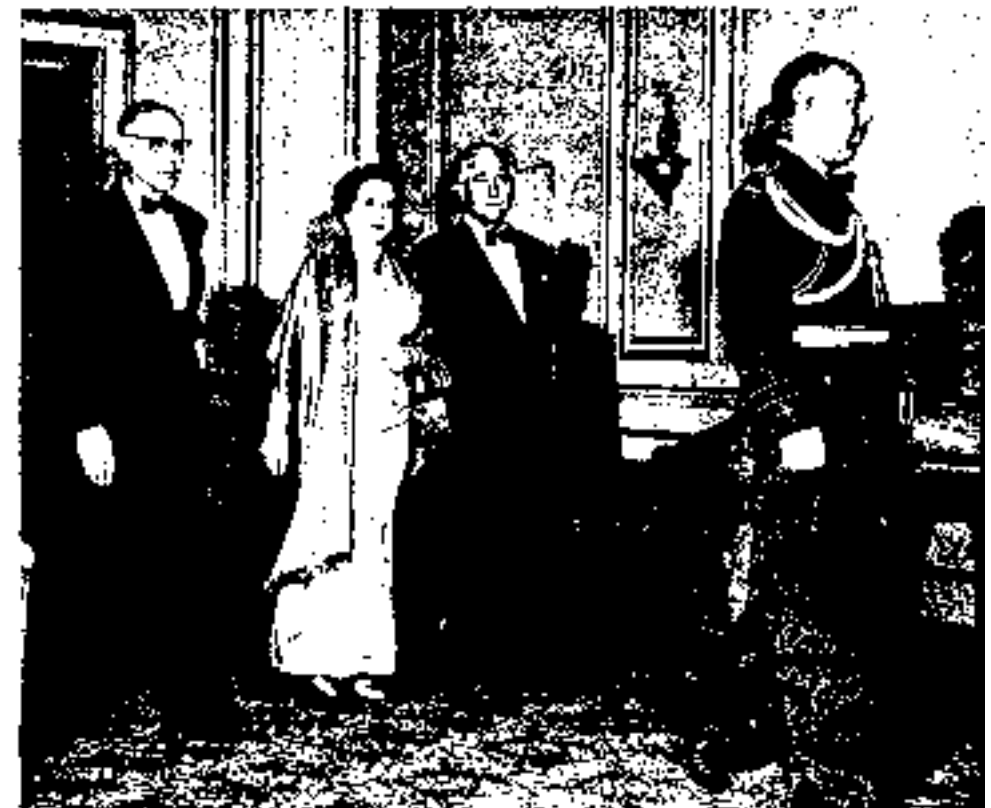
Picture taken in the Icelandic Lutheran Church, Vancouver. The children are: Linda, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Bell, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Salvason; Gunnar son of Mr. and Mrs. Margeir Sigurdsson.

President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson and their entourage attended divine service on Sunday, in the Icelandic Lutheran church in Vancouver. Prior to the service, President Ásgeirsson paid a visit to the pastor of the church, Reverend E. S. Brynjolfsson, who is a patient in the Vancouver General Hospital. The service was conducted by Pastor Eric H. Sigmar, of Camas, Washington, assisted by Pastor G. P. Johnson, of Blaine, Washington. The church was filled to capacity.

The Presidential party arrived at Toronto, on Monday, September 25. They were greeted at the airport by the consul of Iceland, J. Ragnar Johnson. On the following day Premier Leslie M. Frost and members of the

Provincial Cabinet entertained President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson and their entourage in the Red Room at the Park Plaza Hotel. Other guests included Mayor Nathan Phillips, of Toronto, and Mrs. Phillips and the Chairman of the Council of Metropolitan Toronto, Mr. Frederick G. Gardiner, and Mrs. Gardiner. Premier Frost introduced President Ásgeirsson, who replied appropriately and outlined briefly his trip across Canada to the West Coast.

At the City Hall, Mayor Phillips presented President Ásgeirsson with a pair of gold cuff links bearing the crest of the City of Toronto, and to Mrs. Ásgeirsson he gave on behalf of the citizens of Toronto a gold brooch in the form of a maple leaf.



President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson with Mr. L. H. Thorlaksson, Chairman of the reception committee entering the banquet room in The Vancouver Hotel

A reception was given by the members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, at the Granite Club. The reception was attended by upwards of one hundred people, mostly of Icelandic descent and wives and husbands.

The President of the Club, Mrs. Fanny Peacock, on behalf of the members, presented President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson with two figurines of birds made of native Canadian Blue Mountain pottery.

Following this reception, the presidential party was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. John Craig Eaton at the home of Mr. Eaton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John David Eaton.

On Friday, the men of the party were guests of De Havilland Aircraft and were taken on a flight over the environs of Toronto and as far away as Niagara Falls.

The sentiments of all who met with President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson on their Canadian tour were expressed in the following words from a Toronto source: "The visit to Toronto was a memorable one and very much enjoyed, not only by the visitors but by those who participated in entertaining the

president and those with him."

The last stop on Canadian ground was at Montreal, on Saturday, Sept. 30. The officer in command of the Guard of Honor drawn up to meet the presidential party at Dorval Airport was Squadron Leader Arthur Swainson, formerly of Winnipeg. After an R.C.M.P. escorted tour of the city, a luncheon was served. This was attended by several Montreal residents of Icelandic descent, including Mr. and Mrs. Thor Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stephenson, and Mrs. Baldur Olson. A member of President Ásgeirsson's escort on the tour through the city was Corporal Maurice Swainson, another former Winnipeg man.

The Montreal stopover marked the end of the Canadian tour. The presidential party left for Iceland that evening, on an Icelandic Airways plane. From first to last, the visit was an unqualified success and without a doubt the bonds of friendship between Iceland and Canada, and especially the bonds between the people of Iceland and the people of Icelandic descent in Canada were strengthened by the visit.

—W. Kristjanson

### PROMINENT IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Three brothers from Gimli, Man., members of a family prominent in Canadian agriculture, played a major part in the Resources For Tomorrow conference held in Montreal, Que., in October. They are G. A. Kristjanson, senior rural development specialist with the Manitoba department of agriculture, Dr. Kris Kristjanson, secretary of the Canadian Commission on Water Control, and Dr. Baldur Kristjanson, head of the secretariat which made all arrangements for the conference. All have either master's or doctor's degrees

in agricultural economics. Three other brothers are also prominent in the agricultural field. They are Burbank, who is assistant deputy minister of agriculture for Manitoba and now on leave of absence as an economic adviser to the government of Iran, Larry who holds a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics and now director of research for the Canadian Wheat Board, and Leo, also a holder of a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics and now with the Centre For Community Studies, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

## A Few Remarks On Some Of The Philological Aspects Of Icelandic

by PROFESSOR HARALDUR BESSASON

Icelandic is the only modern European language which has faithfully preserved many of the characteristics of the Primitive Germanic Language which was spoken in the greater part of Northern Europe thousands of years ago. As a consequence the Icelandic language is of great interest to philologists and etymologists. Icelandic or Old Norse has never received appreciable admixture. It is because of the purity of the language that it is relatively easy to detect the linguistic or grammatical laws which to a large extent have regulated its evolution. By analysing a few of these laws it can be made clear in the first place that Icelandic grammar is an interesting subject in itself and in the second place that it does provide the student with a firm foundation and an experience of almost unlimited application in the wide realm of language studies.

A student of Icelandic will soon discover that vowel changes played an important part in the development of Old Norse or Old Icelandic. The same can be said about consonant changes, even though they are often less conspicuous. A number of these changes took place before the settlement of Iceland. It is nevertheless possible for the philologist or the language student to learn a great deal about the origin and the development of Old Norse or Primitive Norse by studying Old Icelandic alone.

### MUTATIONS and FRACTURES

I shall now discuss two of the more important evolutionary forces in Old Norse and Old Icelandic, i.e. mutations and fractures (some philologists prefer the terms umlaut and breaking).

Mutations were spontaneous vowel changes which tended to facilitate the pronunciation of the language. It might be more understandable to refer to these changes as a "compromise" arrived at by two different vowels within the same word where the succeeding vowel always caused the change by affecting its preceding neighbor and imposing on it a new sound-value. A good example of this is the verb *beygja*, the Primitive Norse form of which was *baugjan*. In this case the vocalic *j* has influenced the diphthong *au* and transformed it into *ey* with the result that the verb could be more easily pronounced.

By means of mutations an almost unlimited number of words, denoting new ideas or new objects, could be derived from the same stem or the same root. Hence the linguistic purity mentioned above.

Mutations took place in all languages of Germanic origin except Gothic. The greatest variety, however, is found in Old Icelandic or Old Norse, which, again, is one of the reasons why knowledge of the structure and the development of Old Norse and Old Icelandic is indispensable for the comparative philologist. To explain this matter further a few examples of mutations

and fractures are given below. Both of these vowel changes are similar in nature and come within the above defined category.

1) **Mutations.** i- or j-mutations are very common in Old Norse and are caused by i or vocalic j. Examples:

a) e became i as for instance in **sigla** (to sail), which is derived from **segl** (a sail) and **virki** (fort), which comes from **verk** (work.)

b) a became e in **drengr** (a valiant, worthy man), which is derived from **drangr** (rock) and **telja** (to count, consider), which comes from **tala** (to talk).

c) á became æ in **frægr** (famous), which is derived from the third principal part of **fregna** (to ask), i.e. **frágum** (we asked.)

d) u became y in **spyrja** (to ask), the original meaning of which is "to trace somebody's footprints", cf. German **Spur** (footprint).

e) ó became æ in **dæma** (to judge), which comes from **dómr** (judgement).

f) ú became ý in **hýsa** (put up for the night), which is derived from **hús** (house).

g) au became ey in **hreysti** (strength), which is derived from **hraustr** (strong).

h) jú became ý in the comparative degree **mýkri** (softer), the positive degree of which is **mjúkr** (soft).

i) jó became ý in **þýfi** (stolen goods), which is derived from **þjófr** (thief).

2) **Fractures:** Here we have a separate class of vowel changes which is, in its nature, very similar to mutations. In Old Norse two different kinds of fracture took place when either a or u split or transformed the preceding e into ja (a-fracture) or jö (u-fracture). Examples: **bjarga** (to save) is derived from **berg** (rock); **jötunn** (giant) is derived from the stem **et-** which appears in **eta** (to eat).

These few examples of vowel changes in Old Norse will show how the stu-

dent will gradually acquire a wider knowledge of his field and discern a striking unity in the etymology of the language—a unity possible only in a language which for thousands of years has maintained a high degree of self-sufficiency in the matter of forming new words for new objects and new ideas. It is interesting to note that Icelandic philologists are still preoccupied with coining new words, some of which are formed according to the same principles as the derivatives mentioned above.

A few more observations on the vowel changes are in order. It is interesting to analyse the different relations which exist between the derivative and its parent. They are by no means of an exclusively philological nature. Once the grammatical or philological law of mutations has been established the philologist can prove that **drengr** (a valiant, worthy man) is derived from **drangr** (rock). However he does not only recognize the vowel change, but also the similarity in meaning and the distinctive qualities which the derivative has inherited from the parent. The relationship between **ferð** (journey) and **fjörðr** (fjord) (u-fracture) points toward the original meaning of the latter as having been "a journey into the land". It is highly improbable, however, that geologists would accept this explanation. The adjective **frægr** is self-explanatory when we know that it is derived from **frágum** (we asked). The connection between **eta** (eat) and **jötunn** (giant) shows that the **jötunn** must have been thought of as being "a big eater". Thus the study of philology is often closely linked with other fields of learning, as for instance folk lore (in the case of **jötunn**) and semantics (the science of meaning).

By studying mutations and fractures in Old Norse the student will be able

to trace the way back into pre-historic mists. I do not think it necessary to explain further the value of such scholarly endeavours.

Modern English has only two different ways of expanding its vocabulary; borrowing words from foreign languages, even Russian, and compounding words which are already in use. Therefore it is obvious that an English-speaking student studying Icelandic will enjoy an entirely new linguistic experience. It is left to the reader to define the values of experience.

#### INFLEXIONS

To a certain degree the inflexions of the various parts of speech constitute the syntax of a language. They also have to be included in any survey of the etymological or the philological aspects where the inflexional endings are of great importance. It is virtually impossible for a student to acquire the most elementary knowledge of etymology without being thoroughly familiar with the declension systems of some of the highly inflected languages, as for instance those of Gothic, Latin and Icelandic. By comparing the inflexional endings of the Old Germanic languages some fragments of their Primitive Germanic parent language can be reconstructed. In this respect Gothic and Icelandic would furnish the researcher with most excellent material. To illustrate this point more fully it is necessary to give examples. **Dagr** in Old Icelandic means day. In Gothic we have **dags**, in Anglo-Saxon **dæg**, in Old Saxon **dag** and Old High German **tag**. In this case Gothic and Icelandic have preserved the Primitive Germanic nominative ending **-az** (in Gothic **-s** and Icel. **-r**). By comparing the nominative endings in a few languages it can be established that the

ending was **-os** in the Indo-European language. By applying this method of comparison the philologist can travel back into history thousands if not tens of thousands of years in a relatively short period of time.

#### GRADATION SERIES

All the Indo-European languages have in common a most significant characteristic, the technical term for which is "gradation series" (English philologists have also adopted the German "Ablaut"). By gradation is meant the variation of vowels in the same roots or suffixes in fixed series, which arose in the original Indo-European. This variation is preserved in the languages descended from IE., though greatly altered and disguised in many of them. The universality of the "gradation" makes it highly important from the philological point of view and it is necessary that students of language study it most thoroughly where it appears in its least altered forms, as for instance in highly inflexional languages like Icelandic. By comparing Icelandic with Primitive Germanic one will see that the gradation series of the former have been preserved remarkably well. Six out of seven series appear in the principal parts of the strong verbs. I shall now compare the gradation series, as they appear in Icelandic, with those of Primitive Germanic in order to prove my point. The table below is self-explanatory.

1. Icel. í-ei-i-i.  
Prim. Germ. í-ai-i-i.
2. Icel. jú (jó) - au- u- o.  
Prim. Germ. eu- au- u- o.
3. Icel. e- a- u- o (exceptional cases are not included).  
Prim. Germ. e(i)-a-u- o.
4. Icel. e- a- á - o (u).

- Prim. Germ. e- a- áe-o.  
 5. Icel. e- a- á- e.  
 Prim. Germ. e- a- áe' - e.  
 6. Icel. a- ó-ó- a.  
 Prim. Germ. a- ó-ó- a.  
 7. Icel. á-ó-á.  
 Prim. Germ. áe- ó- áe'.

This among other things shows most clearly how important a place Icelandic occupies in the field of philology. The same, in varying degrees, applies to other Old Germanic languages as for instance Gothic.

As already stated, the gradation series appears most distinctly in the principal parts of strong verbs, but merely the mention of "principal parts" leads one on to an important aspect, which is their productiveness. Here one will find the origin of a considerable proportion of the Icelandic vocabulary and the same applies to languages closely related to Icelandic. A few examples will be given. The first gradation series (see the above table) appears in the principal parts of *bíta* (to bite), *beit* (bit), *bitum* (we bit), *bitið* (have bitten). The nouns *bit* (a bite), *biti* (a bit), *beita* (to graze, feed sheep and cattle) are all derived from the above-mentioned principal parts. From *líta*, which belongs to the same group as *bíta*, are derived *leita* (to search, seek, originally "to seek with one's eyes), *leit* (a search), *leiti* (hill) etc. In *fljúga* (to fly) we have the second class of the gradation series, i. e. *fljúga* (to fly), *flaug* (flew), *flugum* (we flew), *flugið* (have flown). From these principal parts are derived *fleygja* (to throw, originally "to cause something to fly"), *flaug* (a vane), *fleygur* (a wedge), and the adj. *fleygur* (able to fly, fluent), *flug* (flight), *fluga* (a fly), *flug* (a flying, flight, also a medical term). From the principal parts of

*sjóða* (to boil) which belongs to the same class as *fljúga* are derived *seyði* (broth), *soð* (broth), *sauður* (a wether, the original implication was that the fate of the animal was to be cooked in boiling water), *suða* (to purl), *suð* (the purling sound of running or boiling water). The fourth gradation series appears in *bera* (to bear, carry), the principal parts of which are *bera*, *bar* (bore, carried), *bárum* (we bore, carried), *borið* (have born(e), carried). The following words are derived from these: *barn* (child), *bæra* (to move, stir), *byrði* (burden), Old Icel. *burr* (son), and many others. The fifth gradation series appears in *gefa* (to give), *gaf* (gave), *gáfum* (we gave), from which are derived *gjöf* (present, gift), *gæfa* (luck), *gáfa* (a gift in a spiritual sense), *gifta* (luck), *gifta* (to give a woman in marriage), *gifting* (marriage), etc. The sixth series appears in *fara* (to go), *fór*, *fórum* (went), *farið* (gone). From these are derived *far* (track, passage), *för* (journey), *færa* (to bring), etc.

#### ICELANDIC SYNTAX

Space permits me barely to touch upon the syntax of Icelandic. If I were to define some of the values it may have for students of languages I should first mention the historic-philological value, as the structure of the sentence in Icelandic has all the characteristics of the ancient Indo-European languages.. Secondly, I would like to mention something which could be called "the disciplinary value". In the study of highly inflected languages, where each word of the sentence may have to agree with the next one in case, gender and number, the student is provided with the finest type of mental gymnastics.

Teachers at higher institutions of learning would no doubt agree that

students who enter such institutions with a good knowledge of Latin are more likely to obtain higher marks in languages than those who have no knowledge of that language. This is partly due to the rigid discipline which the sentence structure of a highly inflexional language imposes on the student.

I have read somewhere that Icelandic students at the University of Copenhagen often used to obtain top marks in Latin, simply because they had been brought up under the strict discipline of their mother tongue.

From the morphological point of view the syntax of Modern English has been greatly simplified compared with its ancestral languages or dialects. In some respects this may be an asset. The famous linguist Edward Sapir has stated that "the form tends to linger on when the spirit has flown or changed its being" (Language, p. 98). In English the word order of the sentence has to a large extent taken over the role of inflexional endings as we can see by comparing two sentences identical in meaning, one from English and the other from Icelandic. In English we have "the farmer kills the duck", and in Icel. "bóndinn drepur öndina". If we reverse the word order of the English sentence and say "the duck kills the farmer" the meaning has also been completely reversed. Even though we give the Icelandic sentence the same treatment as its English counterpart and say "öndina drepur bóndinn" the meaning has not been changed at all as the declension endings, but not the order of the words, are the decisive factors as regards the meaning. This example reveals in essentials the syntactic difference between Modern English and Icelandic.

#### GRIMM'S LAW OR RASK'S LAW

Comparative philology, in the modern sense, is a relatively recent field of learning. Eighteenth century scholars interested themselves in etymology, but they were on the wrong track and seemed to cling to the theory that most languages were descendants of Hebrew. It was not until the early 19th century that the foundation of modern comparative philology was laid through research on the origin of the Icelandic or Old Norse language. I shall come back to this point later.

In the year 1822 a German philologist, by the name of Jakob Grimm, published a work which dealt with correspondence between consonants in the Germanic languages and those of other Indo-European languages, especially Greek, Latin and Sanskrit. In this work a grammatical law, on which modern comparative philology rests, was fully laid down. This law is generally referred to as Grimm's Law, a term which, however, gives too much credit to Grimm, because a Danish philologist, Rasmus Kristján Rask, was the first to discover the law. The outlines of this law are given in a work he published in 1818. This work will be further discussed later in this article.

To be able to understand and make use of Grimm's Law the language student has to know at least one language of purely Germanic origin and some other languages outside the Germanic group of languages, as for instance Latin or Greek. In this case it is only logical that the student select Icelandic as his field of study as it is of purely Germanic origin.

Below, the application of Grimm's law is briefly outlined by comparing Icelandic and Latin.

According to this law the Indo-European consonants **b, d, g**, become **p, t, k** in Germanic languages. It is rather difficult to explain the connection between **b** and **g**, but the correspondence between **d** and **t** on one hand and **g** and **k** on the other is obvious when we compare Latin **domare** (to tame) and Icel. **temja** (to tame, break in); the Latin **divus** (godly, divine) and the Old Norse mythological name **Týr** (one of the gods). Then we have Latin **gelidus** (cold) and Icel. **kaldur** (cold); Latin **gaudium** (joy) and Icel. **kátur** (gay, joyful). According to Grimm's Law Indo-European **p, t, k** (**c, q**) became in the Germanic languages **f, þ, h**. Examples: Lat. **pater** (father), Icel. **faðir** (father); Latin **precor** (I ask, pray) and Icel. **fregna** (to ask); Latin **tres** (three) and Icel. **þrír** (three); Latin **totus** (all, whole) and Icel. **þjóð** (nation); Latin **taceo** (I am silent) and Icel. **þegja** (to be silent); Latin **collum** (neck) and Icel. **háls** (neck); Latin **quod** (what), Icel. **hvað** (what); Latin **cano** (I sing) and Icel. **hani** (cock). According to the law Indo-European **bh, dh, gh**, became **b, d, g** in the Germanic languages. In Latin these consonant clusters appear as follows: **bh** became **f**, **dh** became **f** and **gh** either **f** or **h**. Thus we have the following examples: Latin **fero** (I carry) and Icel. **bera** (to bear, carry); Latin **frater** (brother) and Icel. **bróðir** (brother); Latin **flos** (flower), and Icel. **blóm** (flower); Latin **fores** (door), and Icel. **dyr** (door); Latin **facilis** (easy), Icel. **dæll** (easy); Latin **fortis** (strong) and Icel. **drengur** (originally a valiant, worthy man); Latin **hostis** (enemy) and Icel. **gestur** (guest); Latin **haedus** (kid) and Icel. **geit** (goat); Latin **homō** (man) and Icel. **manni** (man); Latin **fel** (gall), Icel. **gall** (gall); Latin **faveo** (I favour), Icel. **gá** (take heed, mark).

There are many exceptions from Grimm's Law and needless to say the language student has to acquaint himself with a number of other philological laws to be able to do research of any significance in his field.

At the beginning of the 19th century a Danish student by the name of Rasmus Christian Rask wrote a grammar of Icelandic. Rask had previously studied Icelandic by himself. The title of this work was in Danish "Vejledning til det islandske eller gamle nordiske sprog" (An Introduction to Icelandic or Old Norse). To quote Professor Halldór Hermannsson: "This little book of some three hundred pages completely revolutionized the study of the Icelandic language as well as that of the Germanic languages in general". (Islandica XII, p. 28). This is all the more surprising when we consider that Rask was only 21 years of age when the printing of his grammar began in 1809.

"In 1813 the Danish Royal Academy had announced the following prize question: 'To investigate by historical criticism and to demonstrate with appropriate examples the sources of the ancient Scandinavian language and to make manifest its relations, from the earliest times down through the Middle Ages, partly to the Scandinavian dialects, partly to the Germanic dialects; moreover to determine with exactness the principles upon which the derivation and comparison of these languages are to be built.' Rask's answer to this question was finished in 1814, but did not appear in print until 1818, . ." (Islandica XII, p. 30).

#### RASK'S ORIGIN OF OLD NORSE OR ICELANDIC

The title of Rask's work which appeared in 1818 was in Danish Under-

søgelsø om det gamle nordiske eller islandske Sprogs Oprindelse (Some Observations of the Origin of the Old Norse or the Icelandic Language).

A famous Danish philologist later remarked on Rask's work as being of 'so great an importance that it may properly be said to have laid the foundation upon which the whole modern comparative philology rests'. (Islandica XII, p. 30).

In short, Rask, in the above work, laid down the principles of Grimm's Law, previously mentioned in this article. The German philologist expanded the law, but Rask should nevertheless

get the credit for introducing it. Says L. F. A. Wimmer: "We should not talk about Grimm's Law in this connection, but rather of Rask's Law". (transl. from Danish, see Islandica XII, p. 30).

I know of nothing which could be of greater encouragement to people who maintain that Icelandic should, on account of its philological values, occupy a respected place in the language departments of our universities, than the fact that through research on its origin a philological law "upon which the whole modern comparative philology rests" was established.

The writer has benefited from the following works: Alexander Jóhannesson, *Íslensk tunga í fornöld*, Reykjavík 1924; Halldór Halldórsson, *Íslensk málfræði handa æðri skólum*, Reykjavík 1950; Adolf Noreen, *Altislandische und Altnorwegische Grammatik*, Halle 1884; Joseph Wright, *Grammar of the Gothic Language*, Oxford 1949; Edward Sapir, *Language*, New York 1957 (first published in 1921); Björn M. Olsen, *Míningarrit gefið út af hinu íslenska Bókmenntafélagi*, Reykjavík 1888; Halldór Hermannsson, *Modern Icelandic* (Islandica XII, Ithaca, New York, 1919).



#### HALLGRIMUR HALLGRIMSSON VISITS BOYHOOD DISTRICT

Hallgrimur Hallgrimsson, consul-general of Canada in Iceland and son of the late Rev. H. F. Hallgrimsson who in pioneer days was pastor of the Lutheran Church at Baldur, Man., took time out from his tour of Canada this summer with the president of Iceland, Hon. Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, to visit his old home town. Halli, as he was known to friends and schoolmates, was born in the Grund district adjacent to Baldur and with the family moved in 1905 to Baldur where he received his public and high school

education. He went to Iceland with his father in 1925 and was employed by the Shell Oil Company there of which he is now president. Mr. Hallgrimsson, spent a day at Baldur meeting old friends and visiting the hospital, the new school and the new curling rink. They also visited the Lutheran Church where his father preached for more than 20 years. Mrs. Hallgrimsson is a sister of Hon. Thor Thors, Ambassador of Iceland to the United States and Canada.

## Canada Iceland Foundation and the Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarships

The first step taken for the laying of a foundation, on a permanent basis, for the preservation of inherent values in Icelandic language and literature in this country, was the establishment of the Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. Now that this has been done and a professor, Haraldur Bessason, occupies the position of Head of the Department of Icelandic at the University, the next step to take is to make provision for scholarships, equally on a permanent basis, to be awarded promising students taking Icelandic or who, during their academic course, show an interest in Icelandic studies by attending evening or other lectures given by the Professor of Icelandic.

These students, on graduation, will become ambassadors of the best in the Icelandic heritage. Primarily the service they will be able to render, wherever they go, will rest upon their knowledge of Icelandic acquired at the University, but even if restrictions in the selection of language studies and limitations dictated by the courses selected, should make it impossible for some of these students to do more than attend lectures in Icelandic language, literature and history, that in itself will be a valuable cultural asset. It will be particularly valuable in that it will enable these graduates to help make known the close philological relationship between Old Icelandic and Old English.

A short time ago two funds became available to the Foundation for scholarship purposes. The Icelandic Good Templars deposited with The Win-

nipeg Foundation the sum of \$4000.00 the interest on same to be available to the Canada-Iceland Foundation to be awarded by it or a committee of same in accordance with conditions set out in an agreement between the Officers of the Good Templars, the Canada-Iceland Foundation and The Winnipeg Foundation. At the same time monies became available out of the estate of the late George (Guðmundur) Walgar Magnusson, Swedish Masseur, in the sum of \$2000.00, donated by his mother, Þórunn Káradóttir of Iceland, the interest to be used for scholarships for students of Icelandic extraction.

Last spring The Icelandic Canadian Club appointed a scholarship committee of three composed of the following:

Halldor S. Stefansson, Chairman

J. T. Beck

Judge W. J. Lindal, secretary.

A notice over the signature of the Chairman was inserted in both Logberg-Heimskringla and The Icelandic Canadian inviting high school students of Icelandic extraction planning to take a university course, to submit applications for scholarships. A surprisingly large number of applications were received. The committee selected five as meriting a scholarship and chose one of them for the Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarship. It then handed all five applications to the chairman of the Canada-Iceland Foundation Scholarship Committee which, by that time, had been duly set up.

The scholarship committee appointed by the Canada-Iceland Foundation consists of the following:

Professor Haraldur Bessason, Head of the Department of Icelandic, Chairman.

Dr. J. M. Robinson, Awards Officer of the University of Manitoba.

Dr. A. G. Bedford, Registrar, United College

Axel Vopnfjord, representing the Foundation

Judge W. J. Lindal, representing the Foundation.

Dr. W. M. Sibley, Dean of Arts and Science of the University sat in at the first meeting of the committee. Judge Lindal was appointed secretary of the Scholarship Committee.

At this meeting Dr. Robinson gave valuable information in regard to the five applicants for scholarships in addition to the material included in their applications and recommended that, if funds were available, all five applicants be given a scholarship. The committee unanimously agreed, accepted the selection made by the Committee of The Icelandic Club and forwarded its report to the Canada-Iceland Foundation.

The officers of the Canada-Iceland Foundation met and decided that, in view of the recommendation of the scholarship committee, even though the full amount required was not immediately available, a scholarship of \$100.00 should be awarded to each of the remaining four applicants.

Scholarships have been awarded as follows:

**Eric William Olson**, the Icelandic Canadian Scholarship.

**Lorna Ellen Sigurdson**, the Icelandic Good Templars Scholarship.

**Edward R. Jorundson**, the George Walgar Magnusson Scholarship.

**David Baldur Arnason**, a Canada-Iceland Foundation Scholarship.

**Barry Bergen**, a Canada-Iceland Foundation Scholarship.

Each scholarship is for \$100.00 available for the year 1961-62. Information about the winners of the scholarships follows.

**W. J. Lindal**,

Secretary of The Scholarship Committee



**EDWARD RALPH JORUNDSON**

**Edward Ralph Jorundson** is the son of Oscar H. Jorundson and the late Mrs. Jorundson of Riverton, Man. He has received the following awards:

Province of Manitoba University Bursary, \$500.00; Lisgar Lodge No. 2 of Selkirk Scholarship in memory of the late Bjorn Johnson of Gimli 200.00; George Walgar Magnusson Scholarship, 100.00.

During his high school course in Riverton Edward took a leading part



in school activities, particularly sports. He is attending the University of Manitoba, Science II.



**BARRY BERGEN**

**Barry Johannes Bergen** is the son of Sigurlín Lily and Hafstein Lincoln Bergen of Riverton, Manitoba. He has received the following awards:

Province of Manitoba University Bursary, \$400.00; University Board of Governors Bursary \$200.00; Canada-Iceland Foundation Scholarship 100.00.

Barry has taken a leading part in extra-curricular activities. He plays **baseball** and hockey and was editor-in-chief of the Riverton Grade **XII** School Book. He is attending the University of Manitoba Science II.

**Eric William Olson** is the son of Olafur and Johanna Olson, formerly of Gimli and now of Norwood in St. Boniface. His father is a son of B. B. Olson and Gudrun Olson of Gimli, both deceased. His mother is a daughter of Einar Olafson Markusson and the late Thordis Kristin Markusson.

This fall Bill Olson was awarded an Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarship of \$100.00 and a \$25.00 bursary by the

Norwood Community Scholarship Foundation. Last spring he won a Governor General's Medal. For picture and further particulars see last issue of The Icelandic Canadian. Bill is attending the University of Manitoba, Science I.



**DAVID BALDUR ARNASON**

**David Baldur Arnason** has been awarded a \$100.00 Canada-Iceland Foundation Scholarship. He is the son of Helga and Thor Arnason of Bissett, Man. His grandparents on the father's side are Ingibjorg and Steindor Arnason of Arborg; on the mother's side, Kristjan Olafson and the late Ingibjorg (Tomasdottir) Olafson of Riverton. Last summer David's father fractured a leg but in spite of that and indifferent health he and Helga are determined that David should obtain a university degree. He is at United College, Science I.

**Lorna Ellen Sigurdson** is the daughter of Franklin and Halldora Sigurdson of Oak Point, Man. Her father's parents were Sigfus and Sigurlaug Sigurdson of Otto, P.O. and Oak Point, both deceased. Her mother's parents

are Thorsteinn and Palina Gislason, formerly of Steep Rock and now of Oak Point. Lorna has received this year a total of \$840.00 in scholarships and other awards. For picture and further details see last issue of The Icelandic

Canadian. In that report she was credited with an Icelandic Canadian Club scholarship which should have been a Good Templars scholarship. Lorna Sigurdson is taking First Year Arts at United College.

## Father Of Alaska Highway Mile Post

"Ellis Gislason is the father of the granddaddy of Alaska Highway mile posts", wrote Jim Peacock of the Canadian Press in September in a dispatch from Dawson Creek, B.C., which appeared in several Canadian newspapers.

Mr. Peacock's story is an interesting sidelight of the career of a young Iclander from Saskatchewan who "went north". Mr. Peacock describes him thus:

He's the builder and keeper of the 10-foot-high Mile 0 pole that sprouts in the centre of this city's main intersection.

"I was in the sign business and a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the time, so I got the job," he explains.

The job was to come up with a publicity-attracting symbol for tourists heading north on the 1,523-mile highway which runs from Dawson Creek, 400 miles northwest of Edmonton, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Jaycees decided upon a large mile post, considerably more elaborate than the 1,522 others between here and Fairbanks on the famous highway built in two years by the U.S. Army during the 1941-42 Japanese threat to Alaska.

In 1946, Mr. Gislason constructed the original—a square wooden post 10 feet high with a rectangular flat-surfaced board atop it listing the high-

way mileages. It's set firmly in a concrete base.

In the ensuing years, he's maintained it, frequently repainting it and repairing the damage done by axe-wielding drunks, souvenir hunters and sharpshooters who shot out the gas lamp at its top so often that the lamp was abandoned.

"The post has proven itself a tourist attraction", said Mr. Gislason, now 52, as tourists scampered over the asphalt to photograph the flag-bedecked post.

To the residents here, it's become a symbol of the life bread of the city, which grew from a population of 800 in 1940 to its present 12,500 because of the highway.

Mr. Gislason, a 20-year resident of the community, having come here in 1943 from Humboldt, Sask., to open a body shop and then the Mile Zero sign company, has made the mile post pay off financially, too.

Since 1948 when he first began making miniature posts for sale to tourists and collectors, he's sold nearly 50,000 of them at \$1.75 and up.

"A Japanese firm wanted to get rights to make the posts a while ago," Mr. Gislason said. "But the junior chamber holds the copyright on the design and they thought it was better that it be made locally. I think so, too."

## THE FOUNDING OF NEW ICELAND

by Jon K. Laxdal

Almost every aspect of the founding and subsequent development of the Icelandic settlement in Nýja Ísland has been recorded in both the Icelandic and English language. In these accounts frequent reference has been made to the fact that the territory in which the settlement originated was granted to Icelandic colonists in 1875. Nowhere, however, has the complete text of the Orders in Council relating to this tract of land been included.

Mr. Eric Stefanson, M.P. for the constituency of Selkirk, has made a study of the records available in the Archives at Ottawa pertaining to the founding of settlements within his constituency. Last summer he sent to the writer of this foreword photostatic copies of the two Orders in Council and a map showing the tract of land referred to in the Orders. The original O.C. 987 granting exclusive settlement rights was dated October 8, 1875. The O.C. rescinding these rights was approved July 30th, 1897 after it had become evident that all the land in question would not be required for settlement by the Icelandic colonists. The map shows the location of the main existing settlements in 1897.

Some points of interest that seem to have escaped attention arise in connection with the unique story of the original settlement.

1. The designated territory lay wholly north of the then existing northern boundary of the Province of Manitoba and consequently out of its jurisdiction in the matter of government. Neither did it belong to the North West Territories, but was a portion of a separate tract of land known

as the District of Keewatin. If any portion of the land had been within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba as was originally requested, the "Miniature Republic" could never have come into existence as the colony would have had to comply with provincial laws and regulations.

2. The original Order in Council refers to the territory as an Icelandic reserve. If the word "reserve" was used in the same sense as when applied to Indian reservations, it would of course have given the Icelanders the exclusive right of settlement. Hence the necessity for the O.C. of 1897 rescinding the original. This raises a question. Did the exclusive colonization privileges also grant the settlers the right to set up a government of their own without authority from Ottawa? Such sanction was never sought. Neither was the action taken by the settlers in setting up their own government ever questioned or challenged by any authority. Some individuals may have considered the procedure high-handed, unwarranted and unconstitutional, but distance from Ottawa and inadequate means of transportation would have rendered control over local problems by the Dominion Government unfeasible. The colony was granted municipal rights in 1883 when the territory came within the extended provincial boundaries of Manitoba, but the original form of colonial government continued until 1887 when municipal government was instituted.

3. The efforts of John Taylor and the influence exerted by Lord Dufferin on the Dominion Government to make the settlement possible are well known.



The Tract of Land Reserved for the Icelanders

Little known, however, is the fact that the Dominion Government on Lord Dufferin's recommendation acted without either authority or precedent in paying the transportation costs of the original colonists from Kinmount, Ontario, to Gimli. The Government did have the authority to subsidize the transportation of immigrants to Canada, but no authority existed for paying the cost of moving those already settled within the country from one locality to another.

Loans totalling approximately

**ORDER-IN-COUNCIL No. 987,  
8 Oct, 1875 — Creating Icelandic  
Reserve**

On a Memorandum dated 28th September 1875 from the Hon. the Minister of the Interior submitting for consideration a letter dated 15th September 1875 of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and application of Mr. John Taylor, Icelandic Agent requesting that the Western Coast of "Lake Winnipeg extending "from the mouth of the Red River "on the south to a point known "as Grindstone Point on the "North, including Big Black Island and all other Islands adjacent within ten miles of the said "Coast and extending from Lake "Winnipeg on the East to Range "Two, East of the Principal Meridian on the West, be an Icelandic reserve."

The Minister observes that as there are several homestead entries for lands in Township No. 17 in the Fourth Range, East and valuable lime and sandstone quarries between the seventh Base Line and Big Grindstone Point, he recom-

\$80,000 were granted the Gimli colonists during the first three years. Little of this was ever repaid and no serious effort was ever made by the government to collect. Perhaps the expenditure came to be considered as a well-merited investment.

While the text of the Orders in Council and the map are printed essentially to fill a void in our records nevertheless it is also hoped that by so doing the Icelandic Canadian may stimulate some if its readers to further study on this subject.

mends that the reserve for the Icelanders be for the present limited to the tract bounded to the South by the Northern boundary of the Province of Manitoba, to the North by the Seventh Base Line, to the East by Lake Winnipeg, and to the West by the Eastern boundary of the Second Range, East of the Principal Meridian, embracing township Nos. 18 to 24 inclusive in the Third and Fourth Ranges, East, also Big Black Island and the small islands lying between it and the said Coast, as indicated by red border on a Map accompanying this Memorandum.

The Committee submit the above recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

Approved A MacKenzie  
Wm. G. Haley  
8 / 10 / 75

**ORDER-IN-COUNCIL No. 2306,  
9 Oct. 1897 — Resinding Order-in-  
Council No. 987.**

On a Report dated 22nd July 1897. from the Minister of the Interior stating that by Order in Council of 8th October, 1875, a tract of land shown

coloured pink on the annexed plan, and embracing Township 18 to 24 inclusive in the third and fourth Ranges east of the First Principal Meridian. and also Big Black Island and the small islands lying between it and the western coast of Lake Winnipeg, was set apart as a Reserve for Icelanders.

The Minister further states that by Order in Council of 29th May 1885, the exclusive privileges enjoyed by Icelanders of making entry for portions of the even numbered sections within this Reserve was extended to the odd numbered sections as well for a period of two years from 1st June 1885, and by subsequent Orders the last of which bearing date 7th January 1897, this privilege was extended up to the 31st of December 1898.

The Minister is of opinion that the purpose for which this Reserve was originally made has now been fully served, and he recommends that the Order in Council of 8th October 1875, and subsequent Orders in that behalf be rescinded, and that the even and odd numbered sections remaining at the disposal of the Government in the tract in question be thrown open for sale and homestead entry by any class of settlers who may wish to locate in that vicinity.

The Committee submit the above recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

B. I. CARTWRIGHT

Approved  
30th July 1897

## Gunnar G. Gudmundson Honored

**Gunnar G. Gudmundson**, President of Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan Association, Jersey City, N. J. was signally honored by his colleagues last July at a banquet attended by the more than 60 directors and staff members and their wives. Mr. Gudmundson, who is now 76, was presented with a portrait of himself, which, without his knowledge, had been painted in oils.

The presentation was made by Mr. Edgar W. Gager, director and chairman of the executive committee of the Association. A New Jersey paper reported in part as follows:

"Mr. Gager pointed out that Metropolitan Federal Savings was founded in 1948, largely through Mr. Gudmundson's efforts. He said it was Mr. Gudmundson, then a director of the New Jersey State Credit Union League, who interested 15 credit unions in joining

together to form the savings and loan association.

"After retiring from two previous full-time jobs", the speaker said, "Mr. Gudmundson went back to work to create Metropolitan Federal Savings.

"His foresight, his ability, his outstanding leadership and direction have, in the short space of 13 years, created a \$20 million institution!

"Mr. Gudmundson retired in 1947 after teaching 29 years in the Elizabeth public school system."

Gunnar G. Gudmundson was born in North Dakota, the son of Gunnar and Elin Gudmundson of the Mountain district. He got his higher education at the University of North Dakota and selected teaching as a profession.

According to Bogi Bjarnason, who supplied the information "he moved to New Jersey where he soon excelled, becoming a teacher of teachers."

## Appointed to Manitoba Cabinet

**John Christianson**, member of the Manitoba Legislature for Portage la Prairie, was named Minister of Welfare by Premier Duff Roblin early in November.

Mr. Christianson is the first minister for the separate public welfare portfolio, which was formerly administered by Hon. George Johnson as Minister of Health and Public Welfare. Dr. Johnson retains the health portfolio.

A mechanical engineer by profession John Christianson is the president of Christianson Limited in Portage la Prairie, an automotive and farm implement agency. He was elected to the Legislature for the first time in the 1959 general election.

Mr. Christianson is the son of Bjorn and Ingibjorg (nee Eyvindson) of Langruth, Man. He received his early schooling there, attended high school in Portage la Prairie and in 1940 received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba.

His first public office was as an alderman for the City of Portage la Prairie in 1958. He served in the R.C.A.F. as a pilot during the Second World War, both in Canada and overseas.

### PASTOR SWIMS ACROSS CLEAR LAKE

Rev. Johann Frederickson, pastor of Erickson, Manitoba, Lutheran Church, swam across Clear Lake last summer—a distance of nine miles—in seven hours. Rev. Frederickson was the first man to swim the nine-mile distance



Mr. Christianson married Beverley Fairborn of Lethbridge, Alta. They have two sons, Jon William and David Bjorn.

Hon. John Christianson is one of four members of the Manitoba Legislature of Icelandic descent. The others are Hon. George Johnson, Elman Gutormson and Oscar Bjornson.

across the lake, from east to west. He had two pilot boats with him during the swim, and one of the interested observers was his wife. He received nourishment during his swim from honey and chocolate syrup. He finished the swim in good condition. He has previously made several distance swims. He is in his first year as local resident pastor.

## Appreciated Service

It is inevitable that every once in a while members of the editorial staff of this magazine should, for compelling reasons, or reasons beyond their control, find it necessary to resign from the Board. To those remaining on the staff this is regrettable and all they can say is "Thank you".



Axel Vopnfjord

Axel Vopnfjord has been on the Magazine Board since 1953 and for the first two years was Chairman of the Board, an office which at that time included the duties of an editor-in-chief. Pressure of high school work forced him to relinquish the chairmanship but he continued his service as a member of the editorial staff until last spring when he felt he had to resign.

When Axel became chairman he inaugurated a policy of reaching out to the Icelandic settlements. That policy has been continued and expanded since that time. To Axel Vopnfjord goes a good deal of the credit for the present flourishing magazine. It may not be out of place to state that the President



Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason

Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason joined the editorial staff at the same time as Axel. For two years Sept. 1958 to July 1960 Gilbert was in Europe on loan to the Department of National Defence, in charge of a school for children of Canadian Air Force personnel in Europe. The enrollment was about 1,000 in all grades up to 13. On returning to the principalship of a school in Winnipeg Gilbert felt that he could not take on any extra duties. During the seven years he was on the Magazine Board Dr. Arnason wrote a number of editorials and articles and at all meetings of the board made constructive suggestions.

The Magazine Board regrets the loss of these two members but is glad to know that both are interested in the magazine and may from time to time submit articles or other material.

—W. J. Lindal,  
on behalf of the Magazine Board

## Doctor's Degrees Awarded by U of Iceland

On October 7th, 1961, on the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Iceland, three "western" Icelanders were awarded a Doctor's degree. These were: **Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson**, of Winnipeg, **Dr. Richard Beck**, of Grand Forks, and **Dr. Stefan Einarsson**, Professor of Scandinavian Philology, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.



**Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson**

The Medical Department of the University of Iceland awarded to Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson a Doctorate of Medicine as an acknowledgement of his achievements in the research and teaching of the Science of Medicine.

★

Dr. Richard Beck was chosen by the University of North Dakota to represent it at the celebration. He also represented the "Þjóðræknisfélag" and delivered a brief message on its behalf.



**Dr. Stefan Einarsson**

Dr. Stefan Einarsson had just finished his book "Íslensk Bókmentasaga 874-1960". It is dedicated to Dr. Sigurdur Nordal, and appeared on the 75th birthday of Dr. Nordal.



**Dr. Richard Beck**

## Bjorn Frederick Hrutfiord

by Albertina (Mrs. Hallðor W.) Johnson, correspondent for the Blaine Journal, Blaine, Wash.



Bjorn Frederick Hrutfiord, was born at Blaine, Washington, U.S.A., on June 21, 1932. His parents are Snorri Bjorn Hrutfiord, brought up in Duluth, Minnesota, and Astbjorg Johnson Hrutfiord, born in Selkirk, Manitoba, and brought up in Blaine, Washington. Bjorn's grandparents, on his father's side, were Solveig Bjarnadóttir from Húnavatnssýsla, in Iceland, and Leifur Hrutfiord from Dalasýsla. His mother's parents were, Kristin Jónsdóttir, from Berjanesi, in Ramavalsýsla, and Thorkell Johnson, from Eyjafjöll, later living in the Westman Islands.

Bjorn's childhood, and his teenage years were spent on his parents' dairy and poultry farm just outside of Blaine, where he grew up in the company of his older brother Don. Many happy hours were spent by the boys, helping with the chores on the farm and constructing dams, waterwheels,

and tree ladders, beside the natural spring in the woods of the farm.

Early in grade school, his parents were told by his teachers of his excellent scholastic ability, and when he entered High School, one honor after the other was his. He was chosen, by the American Legion of Blaine, to go to Boy's State, which is an annual event, and is held at some college in the State of Washington each year. In his senior year he was presented with the Banker's Award by the Local Blaine Bank, and at graduation, was chosen as the Salutatorian, receiving also the Inspirational Trophy for being the class of 1950, most outstanding scholar and athlete. He was also awarded a room scholarship at Washington State College.

Among his achievements were trophies won at track meets, and many blue ribbons were awarded him for his entries in the poultry and cattle divisions at the County Fairs.

Bjorn entered Washington State College at Pullman, with full intentions of studying agriculture, but he became so interested in chemistry, that he decided to make that his major.

Along with his studies he took a very active part in athletics, and was president of his Fraternity, Delta Upsilon, serving on many committees, including the commencement committee. In his third and senior years at College he was given assistance in teaching, and during the summers worked at the Pulp Mills in Bellingham, Wash., and in Alaska, and also in the laboratories at the General Petroleum, in Ferndale, Wash.

After his graduation, and having received his Bachelor of Science degree, from the Washington State College, now known as the Washington State University, Bjorn decided to continue his education and enrolled at the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hills, N. C., where he was offered an Assistantship. Driving across the United States in an old car, he arrived at his destination and began his studies for his Doctor's Degree. He remained at the North Carolina University for five years, and devoted all his energies to his studies and teaching. During those five years, he received four assistantships, and one Fellowship, and developed a method of "Ring Closures via Benzyne Intermediates" of which reprints were called for from nine foreign countries.

His thesis for the Ph.D. degree was pronounced one of the most valuable books coming out of North Carolina University for many years.

In 1958 he was elected to Sigma XI, and in June of 1959, after graduation, returned to the Pacific Coast, where he was offered a Post Doctorate at the University of Washington in Seattle, and is at the present time engaged in scientific research.

After coming back to Washington Bjorn married his wife Janet, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eythor Westman, Rte, 1, Blaine. They have a two months old son whom they named Bradley Bjorn.

Janet's father, Eythor, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Westman, of Blaine, who at one time lived near Elfros, Sask.

## BOY SHOWS PROMISE AS AN ACTOR

The Manitoba Theatre Centre needed a boy and girl for the melodrama "Speaking of Murder", which has just completed a successful run in Winnipeg. The management gave notice of a contest and applications were received from 66 boys. They all were given an audition and Wayne Bergthor Arnason was selected.

In a report on the play the well-known Winnipeg Tribune theatre, television and radio reporter, Ann Henry says:

"The children played by Wayne Arnason and Rochelle Silver, are too young to be spoiled by too much direction or knowledge of what acting is about, or supposed to be about, so they are natural and winning. The children,

in fact, are the best thing in the play. "Young Master Arnason has a very good grasp of what is expected of him



Wayne Arnason

and he acquits himself very well indeed"

The play is about a designing woman who has not hesitated to resort to murder to get rid of rivals. In the accompanying picture she is beginning to fear that the net is tightening around her. Wayne, as young Ricky, is being questioned by his father in the play, as he seeks to protect his wicked stepmother.

In appreciation of his excellent acting, Peter Manning, who plays the father, Charles Ashton, presented Wayne with a silver trophy and his

classmates in the Clifton School presented him with a desk set.

Wayne has been asked to take a part in the Children's Theatre next production "The Snow Queen", to be played during the Christmas holidays.

Wayne Arnason is in Grade 6, and has always led his class, and, in spite of his heavy role in the play, has kept up his studies. He is a grandson of the late Bergthor Emil Johnson and has inherited his grandfather's flare for poetry and appreciation of art. Elsewhere in this issue a Christmas poem by Wayne which he composed when he was ten years old.

—:—

## THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

By Wayne Bergthor Arnason

Christmas day is fast approaching,  
With all it's gay festivity.  
Do we think of the Spirit of Christmas,  
As it really ought to be?

In Bethlehem of Judea,  
Born this most Holy Day,  
In a lowly stable manger,  
The little Lord Jesus lay.

And in the fields not far away,  
The shepherds watched their flocks.  
The Lord God Almighty saw them  
there,

Among the tall grass stalks.

He sent his angel Gabriel down,  
And bade him tell them thus,  
"Jesus has been born in Bethlehem,  
He will be Lord over all of us."

And the shepherds (though scared  
they were)  
Went to Bethlehem with haste,  
And they found the manger, where  
Mary,  
Her little baby had placed.

In the Eastern sky a star was seen,  
It's brightness none other could match.  
It sailed ever westward and it's light  
came to rest.  
On the stable's roof of thatch.

There were in the East three great  
Kings.  
Who saw the radiant star.  
They knew its meaning and took their  
gift  
And followed it near and far.

They followed it to Jerusalem,  
Where they met Herod the King.  
He told them to go and find the babe,  
So that they too may his praises sing.

They took their gifts and went and  
found  
The Holy Child asleep.

They laid their gifts by the manger's  
side.  
Then fell into prayer so deep.

To celebrate the birth of Christ,  
Is what Christmas day is for.  
To live our lives as Jesus taught.  
This Christmas and evermore.

## THE DEAD OF WAR

by Steve Dewar

—Steve Dewar is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewar of Saskatoon. His mother Thorunn, is a daughter of the late Peter N. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, both deceased. They were pioneers in

the Kristnes District of Saskatchewan and for a number of years Peter ran a lumber yard in Mozart. At the time the poem was composed Steve Dewar was in Grade XII.

They went to war  
Were sent to war  
Fate thrust them up  
To Death's dark door  
Where all would die.

Not all were good  
Not all were bad  
They had the faults  
All men have had  
Yet all are dead.

Some died in fear  
And some in peace  
They gave mankind  
A second lease  
For life on earth.

Men caused their death  
Men saw them die  
Already men  
Forget their cry  
Forget the war.

But life goes on  
Or so they say  
We've let sad scenes  
Be hid away  
And play at peace.

They fought and died  
They saved the day  
That men could fight  
And kill today  
Could they be wrong?

They were not wrong  
Though they did fall  
And each of us  
Must give his all  
To save the world.

The magazine is glad to publish the literary efforts of our young people and children. Encouragement is needed if the Icelandic literary tradition is to be infused into the North American scene. —Editor

## THE FISKE ICELANDIC COLLECTION

The following appeared in the November 13 number of The Cornell Daily Sun, a Cornell University Students publication.

"The Fiske Icelandic Collection, the largest collection of its kind in North America, continues to grow due to a yearly \$125 appropriation by the Republic of Iceland.

Used to add books to the Collection, the grant honors two University professors, pioneers in Icelandic studies, Willard Fiske, founder of the Collection, and Halldor Hermannsson, its curator for 43 years.

The close scholarly ties between the University and Iceland were illustrated this month by a display of rare books from the Collection as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Iceland.

The 26, 500-volume Icelandic Collection ranks third in size in the world, surpassed only by the collections of Icelandic material in the National Library of Iceland and in the University of Royal Libraries of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Fiske Icelandic Collection is famous throughout the scholarly world for both the books it contains and the series of bibliographies of Icelandic materials compiled by Professor Hermannsson. The collection contains material covering all phases of the island's development from its discovery and settlement in the ninth century to the present day.

The heart of the medieval area of the Collection consists of sagas, historical

and biographical stories, and eddas, poems dealing with the mythological gods and heroes of Scandinavia and Iceland. In addition the Collection contains works, in Old Icelandic and Old Norwegian as well as more recent books, which trace the development of saga and eddic literature.

The material dealing with Icelandic literature since the 16th century includes a copy of the first book printed in Iceland, a New Testament printed in 1540. In addition there are copies of newspapers, pamphlets and books published in Iceland since that date.

The Icelandic Collection is older than the University itself, having its beginnings in the private library of Professor Fiske, who began gathering the material while he was a member of the United States Legation in Copenhagen during 1850-51, 15 years before the University was founded.

In 1868 Professor Fiske was appointed professor of North European languages and librarian at the University. He held these posts until 1883 when he left the University and returned to Europe where he died in 1904. In his later years he expanded the Icelandic Collection until it totaled 8,600 volumes.

In 1905 the Collection and a bequest from Professor Fiske's estate for its maintenance and expansion were given to the University. With the Collection came Professor Halldor Hermannsson, a friend and associate of Professor Fiske."

## CONSERVING THE HUMAN HABITAT

Excerpts from a talk by G. B. Gunlogson, of Racine, Wis., at an annual meeting of the Citizens Natural Resources Association in Milwaukee, Wis.

Every year countless convalescents seek the green chemistries of living nature to gain strength and new hope. Millions of boys and girls go to camps. Including such large institutions as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, churches, Y.M.C.A., etc., there are countless organizations providing funds and facilities for city children to enjoy the benefits that accrue from these experiences. Nor is there any substitute for the spiritual essence found in such surroundings.

Could it be that there is some instinctive alliance between man and his primeval vestiges? After all, his inherent makeup and all his senses acquired their form and fitness from long association with the compelling facts and forces of nature. Even his instincts and emotions were disciplined by her moods. The sounds which come to us from the wind in the trees, the rustle of leaves and the murmur of lapping water have not changed in a million years. The infinite orderliness and continuity of nature are still the most abiding realities of life.

In America we have been endowed with this congenial environment, rich resources and much natural beauty. Here we have generous living space and opportunities for adventure and for the exercise of our talents. From these unique values we have derived our character and culture. When we preserve these values we are preserving our way of life. As a nation we are approaching a stage of maturity. There are no more geographical frontiers left and the population, already large,

is becoming more homogeneous. We are becoming increasingly geared to technology and to mass psychology with the inevitable tendency for our individual personalities and our very souls to become enmeshed in the gears.

Material progress does not mean that the human being must lose his sense of reality. I believe we can do our part better in a modern world if we foster a religion and a culture which recognize the individual as a part of an infinite universe rather than as a cog in a sprocket. In the development of educational processes to meet our cultural needs in the future, I believe that nature areas dedicated to inspirational and educational purposes may become important adjuncts to church and school.

Now these more or less inter-related considerations suggest three concluding observations: 1) Population pressure will tend to impair the equality of this natural environment unless more effective measures can be devised than heretofore to preserve its integrity. This is a most challenging conservation problem and one which should concern everyone. 2) We have arrived at a stage where we need to go beyond our small groups to win support for our ideals and objectives. 3) With increasing population pressure everywhere, no nature areas or values can be permanently defended without public understanding and interest. The only permanent safe guard of these values we are talking about is an informed public.

## Book Review

### ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN ICELANDIC LITERATURE

University of California,

Berkeley, Cal., -2 volumes, 420 pp.

The University of California provides correspondence instruction under the heading "Lifelong Learning". Through that Extension Department, Loftur Bjarnason, Professor of Literature, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Cal. has released for publication an Anthology of Modern Icelandic Literature in two volumes. The Anthology consists of translations from Icelandic into English of selected Icelandic literature from 1800 to 1950.

In the Introduction Professor Bjarnason says:

"The literary tradition which created the Eddas, the involved and complex Skaldic poetry, and the vigorous yet almost epigrammatic Sagas is still alive in Iceland today and is creating a modern literature of surpassing quality".

"Actually", he says "interest in and love for literature has never been lacking in the land of the Sagas." He then tiptoes over the period 1400 to 1800, "the centuries of oppression and suffering".

The editor points out that novels cannot be included and concludes his Introduction as follows:

"Otherwise, this anthology contains an example or two of each major type of literature produced in Iceland and translated into English since 1800."

Most of the literature selected consists of gems of poetry, but there are numerous short stories, three plays and five articles. The selections from each

author are prefaced by a page containing a biographical sketch which, though brief, is surprisingly informative and complete.

Most of the translations of poems have appeared before; some in books by the translators themselves, as for instance, Mrs. Jakobina Johnson, Paul Bjarnason and Dr. Watson Kirkconnell. Others are to be found in Richard Becks "Icelandic Poems and Stories", "20th Century Scandinavian Poetry", the Icelandic weeklies and The Icelandic Canadian.

One of the translators, who is not so well known as some of the others, is Guðmundur J. Gíslason. There is a translation by him of two major poems: "Skarphédinn Among the Flames", Skarphédinn í brenninni, by Hannes Hafstein, and "Iceland", Ísland, by Jónas Hallgrímsson, and that beautiful six line verse "My Nest" by Thorsteinn Erlingsson. In translation it is as follows:

You're welcome to see how I built  
my nest  
If my babies dear you will not molest  
Remember that they have a mother;  
And if they live, to you songs  
they'll sing  
About summer fair and the nights  
of spring;  
So treat them, my friend, like a brother.

Ten of the short stories appeared in Becks "Icelandic Poems and Stories". This repeated publication bespeaks their merit and the skill of the translators.

There are fifteen new short stories. Three are by Thorsteinn Jónsson who



writes under the nom de plume, Thorir Bergsson: "The Leap", translated by Axel Eyberg and John Watkins; "Love and Flowers", translated by Mekkin S. Perkins; and "The Betrayal", translated by Loftur Bjarnason. Two short stories, which the editor classifies as character sketches, are by Jakob Thorarensen: "Last Words", translated by Mekkin Perkins; "The Answer", translated by Eyberg and Watkins.

There are three selections from the short stories of Ólafur Jóhann Sigurðsson, born in 1918, who, Loftur Bjarnason says "is unquestionably one of the best of the younger writers in Iceland today". The selections are: "The Dust of the Road", and "The Hand", translated by Eyberg and Watkins; and "The Padlock", translated by Margaret Einarsson.

Two short stories are from the pen of Guðmundur G. Hagalin: "The Fox Skin" and "Two Big Shots", both translated by Mekkin Perkins.

One from each of the following is selected: Gunnar Gunnarsson, internationally known, who formerly wrote mostly in Danish, "Father and Son", translated by Minna Wreschner; Kristman Guðmundsson, whose books, the editor says, have been more widely translated than those of any other Icelandic author, "The Gift" translated by Mekkin Perkins; Halldór Kiljan Laxness, New Iceland, translated by Eyberg and Watkins, a short story which in the opinion of the reviewer might well have been omitted; Hjörtur Halldórsson, "His Own Master", translated by Eyberg and Watkins; Agnar Thorðarson "The Thief", translated by Paul Schach.

From the novel "If Your Sword is Short", by Agnar Thorðarson there is an extract also translated by Paul Schach.

Within the two volumes Bjarnason managed to include three plays. There is the well known play "Eyvind of the Hills", Fjalla Eyvindur, by Jóhann Sigurjónsson, translated from the original, written in Danish, by Henning Krohn Schanche. "Bishop Jon Arason" by Tryggvi Sveinbjörnsson, is a chronicle play in four acts, translated by Lee M. Hollander. The famous Hadda Padda, by Guðmundur Kamban, has been translated by Sadie Luise Peller. This play, Loftur says, "was acclaimed by Georg Brandes, the great Danish critic, in a highly complementary review."

The Anthology closes with five articles: "The National Theatre in Reykjavik" by Benedikt Gröndal; "Romans in Iceland", by Kristján Eldjárn; "Independent People", by Thor Thors; "The University of Iceland", by Alexander Jóhannesson, and "Icelander in Copenhagen", by Stefán Einarsson.

To the younger generation of Icelandic descent, who are interested in their ancestry and desire to acquire some knowledge of modern Icelandic literature this Anthology is of inestimable value. It merits a wide distribution.

The price for each volume is \$5.00, and may be ordered from Department of Correspondence Instruction, University Extension, University of California, Berkley 4, California.

W. J. Lndal

## *I Go To The White Mansion*

by frú Elinborg Lárusdóttir

I shall remember as long as I live how greatly my landlady, Elin Jonsdóttir, was moved when she learned that I had tuberculosis and had to go to the sanatorium.

"Yet another", she said, and shook her head sadly, and began to tell me several stories about people who had gone there, never to return. The "White Death" took them in his clutches and he did not release them for this world.

"And you—you who are so young and strong and courageous—how can it be that you have become tubercular!" she said, almost scornfully. Judging by her remarks, it was chiefly the weaklings who contracted tuberculosis. I could not but smile, although laughter was far from my heart.

"The doctor's examination has revealed this condition", I said.

"They can make a mistake", she said firmly. "You must not take to your bed. Confinement to bed is ruinous for the nervous system. It saps all power of resistance."

More to the same effect followed, but the tears that rolled down her faded cheeks expressed her sympathy. Then, by way of comfort for me and for herself, "You are so strong. I refuse to believe that you will be prey of the 'White Death'".

This was not a particularly pleasant topic. In no way apprehensive, I brought the subject to a close. I did not believe that I was really ill.

However, I discovered that the other inmates of the house thought differently. They did not consider themselves

safe in contact with me. I suddenly became a dangerous person, shunned by all, except my landlady. That fall, near the beginning of the term, I had shared my room with a schoolmate who had arrived late. She was indisposed when she came.

Her symptom was a continuously recurring fever, without however, any sign of a cold, except for a slight swelling of the neck and swollen glands. As the days passed, her health failed to improve, and she was frequently confined to her bed.

When she moved in with me I was in the very best of health, but towards Christmas I developed a cold and a cough, which I could not shake. Finally, I consulted a doctor. He was a well known to my landlady and she had great faith in him. He examined me carefully, patted me on the shoulder, and said, smiling:

"This is nothing but a passing cold. You are not a candidate for tuberculosis".

Despite this unequivocal verdict, the cough persisted. I broke out in cold perspiration at night, and was tired and weak in the daytime. Thus the time passed until well into January. Then I called the doctor, but he had no time to examine me.

"Althing is in session", he said, and I saw that his mind was wholly on sessional matters.

I told my landlady. Much to my surprise, she broke out angrily, "He should be ashamed of himself. He must come. I'll tell him off; you can be sure of that!"

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"You?" I said. I did not understand how she could venture to do this to a man in his position in society, a medical man and a member of Althing.

"Yes. I had a good deal to do with those fellows, and not the least with him, when I was superintendent at the hospital here. We often clashed, but I never gave in. At one time I engaged a nurse. She was not pretty, and that's a fact, but she was a good person and she performed her duties well. That was sufficient for me. When this self-same doctor saw her he ordered me to let her go."

"What is the reason?" I asked, and looked him straight in the eye.

"She is a proper scarecrow", he said, abruptly.

"As a matter of fact, I was engaging a nurse, not some beauty model!"

"Thereupon he shrugged his shoulders, turned his heel, and walked away".

A few days passed after the doctor's visit and I became steadily worse. The day came when I did not feel strong enough to get up. My landlady had not forgotten about the doctor and late that afternoon she called him in.

The doctor listened closely with his stethoscope. I learned then that he was actually kind-hearted and conscientious; it was with a strong feeling of compunction that he told me the truth.

"You must have caught this from somebody", he said, again and again.

When my roommate learned the verdict, she fled the room, terrified, and moved into the adjoining room, which she shared with a maid. She did not dare to look in on me. For a week I lay there, running a temperature.

One day I got out of bed, to do my washing and to prepare for my move to the sanatorium. I hung the clothes on the line in the yard. There was frost

and when I returned indoors, I was thoroughly chilled.

My landlady called me to the kitchen for a cup of coffee. As I sipped my coffee, my thoughts dwelt on my stay in this old house, where I was in my second year in residence. When I first came there, which was in the summertime, my landlady was for the time being alone in the house, which was being converted from a hospital building to an apartment house. Her bedroom was on the ground floor, while mine was upstairs. The rent was seven crowns. Partly because this was more than I could readily afford to pay, I later took in a fellow-roomer. Meanwhile my landlady and I were the only occupants of this house, which had been the final haven for many patients.

My landlady asserted that there were many strange presences or spirit manifestations in the house. She thought this nothing strange, and pointed to the old mortuary in the yard, a few paces from the main entrance. There corpses had lain, there autopsies had been performed and there, on occasion, human bones had been processed in the interests of medical research.

My landlady asked me more than once if I was afraid to sleep alone upstairs. I replied that I feared neither the dark nor the dead. Occasionally she asked me to go on an errand to the old mortuary building. On my return from one such errand she remarked:

"You are not afraid of anything! That's good, that's the right attitude. No one needs to fear the dead. But the living we must fear. If you meet with evil men, the devil is on the move."

I did not understand these words till long after, when she told me her bitter life story. I realized then that

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she had good cause to compare evil men with the devil.

My hanging out of the washing proved to much for me. I took to my bed, and did not feel equal to braving the cold to replenish the heater and to tidy my room.

It was at this time that I learned how good-hearted some people can be; how they can go out of their way to be helpful. An elderly Salvation Army woman, from whom I had often bought their publication, *The War Cry*, although I never read it, called with the paper one day. I bought, as usual. When she learned of my illness, she shed tears for me, and knelt and prayed God to take pity on me. She considered that I lacked religion, and she prayed for sinner and patient in one. Her prayer was solemn and earnest. She departed sorrowfully, for she did not consider me saved. The following morning she came again, and again she knelt and prayed, in a loud voice. When she had left, my landlady came up, and said she must not pray in such a loud voice, for it scandalized the people in the house.

But the Salvation Army woman did more than pray for me. She did what no one else on the place had thought to do. That same day she sent an Army nurse to visit me, the best and most kindhearted and lovely person I had ever met. She brought me a basin of water, made my bed, added fuel to the heater, and washed the floor. All this she did very quietly. Her touch was gentle and her presence soothed me. She did not seem to fear contact with me, and she was obviously much concerned about my illness. I have her and my landlady to thank that I survived.

My landlady came once a day; she did not feel equal to climbing the stairs oftener than that. But she said:

"It does not hurt me, I am so old".

The nurse came every day. She was always in good spirits and always showed the same solicitude for me, but she taxed her strength and was often tired. The day before I was moved to the sanatorium, I wished to make her some recompense for all her trouble on my behalf. At the same time, I was conscious that it would be difficult for me to reward her adequately and that I would remain indebted to her the rest of my life.

She refused payment, but added: "If you regain your health, support the Army by buying *The War Cry*". I assented, blushing that I had not made a practice of reading the publication of an organization to which a woman such as she belonged.

When I bade good-bye to my landlady, I simply gave her my fingertips, but she drew me to her, and kissed me on the cheek.

"God be with you, my child", she said, with tears in her eyes.

Her token of friendship for me and her goodness of heart warmed my heart. When I looked at her silver-white hair and the wrinkles on her comely face, I realized that she was too old to contract the disease, and that she did not fear the sickle of death.

This was in February. There was snow on the ground and travel was difficult. The Salvation Army vehicle came to take me to the sanatorium, a two hour journey. On the way, I realized that I had omitted to ask anyone to take care of my belongings. These however, were neither extensive nor valuable. I regretted most that my geranium was likely to die. I had put it in a dark corner in the upstairs front room, and I had forgotten to ask my landlady to see that it had the benefit of the sun.

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The old frame house which I left was cold, but at the San it was colder still. All windows were kept wide open, no matter what the weather, and the wind blew under the doors, with the exception of the front door.

On my arrival a bath was prepared for me in a bathroom which was far from being warm. Then I was put to bed, and covered with a sheet and two woolen comforters. I did not find this sufficient covering and felt chilled.

Two women patients in the room greeted me in a friendly manner and plied me with questions. I was doubtless short in my replies and had little to say about myself. Never before in my life had I been ill, or seen the inside of a hospital, and now I had suddenly become a hospital patient. I found this turn of events somewhat depressing. I had always had a strong desire to learn, and now I must abandon my studies, at least for some time to come. It was well that I did not know then that it was to be final.

"Don't you wish to close the windows?" I asked my new roommates. They looked at me with surprise.

"Windows must never be closed here", one replied, shaking her head at my ignorance.

"Not even if one is chilled right through?" I asked.

"No. Not even then. They must be kept open, day and night."

"No matter what the weather!" I asked, not liking the prospect.

"Yes. In every kind of weather. The cold kills the germs."

"But doesn't the cold kill the people, too?" I asked.

"Not nearly everybody", was the earnest reply. "People get used to it."

I could not refrain from laughing.

One of the women looked at me. "It is well that you can be in good spirits",

she said. "I cried all my first evening here."

"That would not make me feel better", I answered, with a good show of cheerfulness, although at the same time I did not breathe too easily.

"That's true. What's the use of self-pity and complaints", said Svava. She was a pretty woman, tall, slim, and erect, with a commanding air.

"You can scarcely speak to that, you who have always been on your feet", commented Asdis drily.

Svava compressed her lips and made no reply. Subsequently, I learned that her lungs were indeed not seriously affected, but that she suffered from another malady, which was destined to cause her death shortly. I suspect that she was aware of this condition.

I did not feel too well on my first night at the San. My bed was near the window and during the night a blizzard developed, with the wind blowing full blast through the open window. In the morning there as a snow-drift on my bed.

That morning I reported for examination. The head-doctor examined me very closely.

"Your ailment is in its incipient stage", he said. "If all goes well you need not be here very long."

I rejoiced greatly to hear this.

My instructions were that I could stay on my feet and that I was to sleep in an open balcony, no matter what the state of the weather. There were many complaints concerning this regulation about sleeping outside, especially from new arrivals.

There was a large number of patients at the San and patients were continually coming and going, some going to the world of the living and some to the world of the dead.

I did not stay on my feet very long. My chill developed into pleurisy and

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I was destined to be confined to my bed for a longer period than was at first expected.

The days seemed very long and uneventful, despite my contact with fellow patients and nurses and the doctor.

Shortly after my arrival at the San, my former roommate arrived, as a patient. When I was taken ill, she did not dare but submit to an examination. The swelling in her neck-glands proved to be a more serious matter than was at first believed. She no longer feared my presence, and, as we had found each other congenial, she often visited with me.

The San was efficiently operated. The Superintendent kept close tab on everything, and he was deeply concerned for the welfare of the patients. No longer was I required to go downstairs for an examination; the doctor came to my bedside for this.

"What response is there to the bell on this ward?" he asked suddenly, after an examination.

I showed that I had failed to get the significance of his question.

"Well, then! How often do you have to ring?" he said, twisting the point of his fair mustache.

"Sometimes once; sometimes more often", I replied. "I have no complaint to make."

He walked briskly to the bell, and rang it. At the same time he consulted his watch. Then he strode to and fro, watch in hand. When there was no response, he rang again, longer than before. This was repeated five times, with the sound of the bell echoing through the rooms, and each time he strode back and forth, watch in hand. Each time his stride lengthened, until it seemed that he crossed the room in two or three steps.

At last the door opened. The nurse

stood in the doorway. She was tall, erect, and fair-haired, and her face was long and pale. Her piercing grey-blue eyes looked cold and she regarded the doctor steadily. Her thin lips moved only a little as she said forcefully.

"What's going on here?"

I shall never forget the change that took place in the doctor's expression. It had been serious, even stern. Now there was a peculiar gleam in his eye and a teasing smile played on his lips.

"Well, now. I wanted to know what response there is to this bell. I rang five times, at two minute intervals. Suppose this had been very urgent."

"The student nurse is in the next room. I was upstairs, doing my work."

The nurse's voice expressed annoyance. Obviously she was offended. Her pale face turned brick-red and the blush spread to her throat. She seemed to grow taller, as she bridled, and she faced the doctor boldly.

"The student nurse", the doctor repeated. I still remember the emphasis he placed on those words. "The student nurse", he repeated again, as if the nurse had expressed some arrant nonsense.

"Well, now. You mean Miss V. But don't you know, Nurse, that the sound carries much better up the open stairway than into the next room?"

The nurse turned away, without a word, but as she turned she shot me a look which said unmistakably:

"It was you who caused this."

This same nurse was at the San during my entire stay there. She was strict, but she was honorable and devoted to her duty. We became well acquainted, but this incident was never mentioned by either one of us.

The San was the largest building I had seen. I called it the White Mansion. It was white, outside and in. The beds, tables, and chairs were white.

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The doctor and the staff were white clad. White predominated.

Life in the White Mansion appeared to be simple and uneventful, but, as a matter of fact, there was always something doing. All waged the same war, against the same illness, but all were not equally strong for that combat.

The White Mansion knew both sorrow and joy. Had I known when I named the place how often death called, I suspect I would have named it the Mansion of Death. Yet, it would not have been rightly termed so, and it would have created a wrong impression.

**About the Author and Her Book**

Elinborg Larusdottir was born, November 12, 1891, in Skagafjordur, in the north of Iceland. At the age of fifteen she entered the Ladies Academy at Blonduosi, where she studied for two years. Following this she engaged in private tutoring for two years. In 1912 she enrolled at the Teachers' College, Reykjavik, where she had studied for two years when she contracted tuberculosis. She spent two and a half years at the Sanatorium at Vifilstadir, near Reykjavik. She was seriously ill, but regained her health fully.

In 1928 Elinborg married Ingimar Jonsson, a theology student. On ordainment, he assumed a charge in Arnesysla, where the couple remained till 1928. In that year Jonsson was appointed principal of a secondary school in Reykjavik, which post he retained till 1955. Their home is in Reykjavik.

Fru Elinborg's first book, a collection of short stories, was published in 1935. Since then books by her have appeared almost yearly and altogether she has published twenty-one books. At the time of writing she is engaged on a

tree-volume novel with an eighteenth century background.

The *White Mansion*, published in 1944, is an authentic account. In response to specific questions, fru Elinborg says: "It may be said that everything in this book is authentic, except for the fact that I have clothed the events in my words. It is a picture of the Sanatorium at Vifilstadir, where I was a patient from 1914 to 1917. The story of the dog is true. "She was Famous" is true. "Soley" is a true story, only the name has been changed, as names generally have been changed. "The Star of Death" is a true account. The young lady in that story was my very good friend. I trust that all these people will forgive me for writing about them as I have done."

In *The White Mansion*, the author reveals her own courage, optimism, and human sympathy. The numerous characters in this series of narrative sketches range from the high to the low, from nobility and dignity to pettiness, but human worth is prominent. Its light shines bright against the background of much suffering and tragedy inevitable at a place such as the *White Mansion*.

W. Kristjanson

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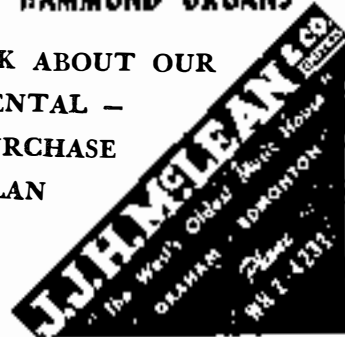
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Verla Emily Wagner

She is the daughter of Svala and Clemens Wagner of Geraldton, Ont., and granddaughter of the noted musician the late Jonas Palsson and Emily Palsson of Vancouver.

★

Kathryn G. Oleson has been awarded a \$500.00 scholarship by the Manitoba Teachers Society. She entered the faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba this fall. She is the daughter of Professor Tryggvi Oleson and Mrs. Oleson, of 435 Rosedale Ave., Winnipeg. For picture and other details see Icel. Can. Summer 1961.

★

Verla Emily Wagner, has led her class all through high school, winning the general proficiency award in grades 11 and 12, and was valedictorian in the September Commencement Ceremonies. She won a trip to Cornwall to see the Queen and Prince Philip inaugurate the Hydro-Electric Project on the St. Lawrence River.

Based on the Grade 13 June examination she received an Ontario Government bursary of \$500.00, and Atkinson Foundation Bursary of \$400.00, a Student's Council award of \$100.00 for her contribution to the school and as editor of the Year Book.

The Music Festival Committee awarded her \$50.00 in recognition of the fact that she attained her ARCT (solo performance degree) in June while still in school. She has won six scholarships and six gold medals in local festivals.

Verla is now taking an honors course at Queens University, Kingston, Ont.



Kris Gudmundson

Kris Gudmundson, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Gudmundson of Riverton received a \$450.00 Province of Manitoba bursary. Kris is taking second year Arts at the university of Manitoba.

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His mother, Mrs. R. G. Rummery, is the former Clara Bjornson, daughter of Sigurdur and Ina Bjornson.



Grant Richard Gisel

Manitoba and this year is taking First Year Commerce. His maternal grandparents were Jona and Sveinbjorn Gislason of Winnipeg.



Thor Johannson

Thor Johannson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thor Johannson, Riverton, received a \$400.00 Province of Manitoba bursary. He is taking a pre-Vet course at the University of Manitoba.



Richard John Guttormson

Grant Richard Gisel, son of E. Alfred and Elizabeth Gisel of Winnipeg, has been awarded a Goodyear Bursary, of approximately \$600.00 a year, for tuition at any approved Canadian university for a maximum of four years. Grant has chosen the University of

Richard John Guttormson, 17-year-old Grade 12 student at Regina, Sask.,



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Prop.: H. Greenberg

this fall was awarded a \$300.00 scholarship in recognition of academic achievement. He averaged 84.6 per cent in this year's Grade 11 examinations. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Guttormson of Regina. His paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. B. Guttormson, 987 Minto St., Winnipeg.

### DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE —



Kenneth L. Brynjolfson

Kenneth L. Brynjolfson, of Lombard, Illinois, received a Bachelor of Arts degree, last June, from the University of Illinois. Mr. Brynjolfson graduated with honors and with distinction in History. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Brynjolfson and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Ingi Brynjolfson, formerly of Winnipeg. He is also the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Goodman of Wynyard, Sask. Mr. Brynjolfson began active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps of the US army as of August 11th. In September 1960 he married the former Joanne Krbec, who also graduated from the University of Illinois in June. Ingi Brynjolfson, Kenneth's grandfather, is the son of Sveinn Brynjolfson, builder, of Winnipeg.

Mrs. Ingi Brynjolfson, Susie, is the daughter of Sigurdur and Carrie Christopherson, pioneers of the Argyle district. They named their farm Grund. Carrie was the daughter of John Taylor, whom all Icelandic pioneers will remember as being very helpful to them. Many Icelandic babies in Argyle were named Carrie in honor of Carrie Christopherson.

The following is an extract from a letter written to Mrs. Flora Benson by Susie the daughter of Carrie Christopherson, and granddaughter of John Taylor, who directed the first group of Icelandic settlers to "Nyja Island" on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

"My mother was born in Michigan. Her father was a poor carpenter, and times were bad. Her mother died, and grandfather was left with five little girls, the oldest ten years old. They moved to Kingston, Ontario. Carrie and Susie went to live with their uncle (John Taylor). They got good schooling, and I believe my mother was 16 years old when she went out to teach. I don't know what date or year it was when they went to Kinmont, Ontario. Uncle John was a minister—perhaps a missionary—at any rate he worked for the government, and so met the Icelanders, and thought they were fine people. While there, my mother asked him what kind of people these Icelanders were. He glanced out the window and said "There you see a nice Icelandic girl—a cute girl with blond long braids and hair." And my mother got to know and love her. She was Gudny, Mrs. Fridjon Frederickson.

Well, they got to Gimli. My mother taught school there for a few months, some of her pupils being older than herself. Fred Swanson, Andres Freeman, and Joe Palsson, to mention a few.

TO THE PEOPLE OF GIMLI . . .

BEST WISHES FOR A

**Joyous Christmas & Happy New Year!**

from

*Mayor Egilson and the Council of the Town of Gimli*

## NEW EMPHASIS

A primary producer must think of items of food as economic units of bushels and pounds which can be calculated into dollars. This must be so or agriculture fails as a business.

Yet he knows that food is more than an article of trade: A man engaged in growing crops and raising livestock has his thinking influenced by humanitarian considerations.

Agricultural producers in Canada, faced with the paradox of abundant food and hungry people, have sought a cure for this condition.

Food is the basic element in campaigns now getting under way in advanced countries to promote better health among the teeming millions of the world's population who are under fed.

These campaigns, "Food Bank", "Food for Peace", and "Freedom from Hunger" give new emphasis to the need which exists.

Canada's financial and agricultural resources can provide worthwhile support to these undertakings if her people are willing.

## Canadian Wheat Pools

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TO THE PEOPLE OF SELKIRK, MANITOBA

Best Wishes for a

**JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

from

*Mayor Ben Massey and the Town Council of Selkirk*

Lord Dufferin wrote in his book about Uncle John Taylor and mentioned his neices, and how they rowed him out to his ship in their small boat.

Some people spoke badly of uncle John for taking them to Gimli. Mother told of how he loved those (Icelandic) people, and how he cried when the smallpox came. Then uncle John adopted a little Icelandic girl, and I had the pleasure of meeting her in Toronto some years ago—a dear little Icelandic lady. She died shortly after I was there. What wonderful stories she could tell of the pioneering days.

Well Flora, the rest you know. Caroline met and married Sigurdur. I have read somewhere that my father was the first Icelander to marry a Canadian girl.

This is some of what I have heard about Kenny's grandparents."

— Delightful stories, such as this one, are of inestimable value in providing material for an "Islandica" of the Icelandic settlers in North America. Others should follow in the footsteps of Susie..

S. Halldorson

## Conference of Ethnic Press Editors

On December 4th and 5th, on the invitation of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough, over seventy ethnic press editors from coast to coast assembled in Ottawa. The conference was called for the purpose of discussing basic rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship, and also for the purpose of giving the editors a sort of a bird's eye view of departments of government in action. Mrs. Ingibjorg Jonsson and Judge W. J. Lindal were present representing Logberg - Heimskringla and The Icelandic Canadian respectively. Judge Lindal appeared also in his capacity as President of The Canada Ethnic Press Federation.

Hon. Ellen Fairclough presided and at the opening of the conference called upon the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker who addressed the meeting and at the conclusion of his remarks presented Judge Lindal, as the representative of the other editors, with an illuminated parchment on which was written, in artistic lettering, a copy of the Canadian Bill of Rights. The chair-

man then called upon Judge Lindal to thank the Prime Minister for the scroll, a copy of which is being sent to each delegate at the conference.

Three of the citizenship court judges were present, including Judge George Chapman of Winnipeg, who was the first one of the three to be called on to discuss some phase of the ceremonies where newcomers take the oath of allegiance, and are presented with Certificates of Canadian Citizenship.

About a dozen Deputy Ministers and top-ranking officials discussed subjects such as, emergency measures organization, defence preparation, health and public welfare, seasonal unemployment, agriculture, veterans allowances, loans to small businesses, etc. A brief question period followed each address. Copies of the material used was distributed to all present at the conference.

The conference closed Tuesday evening, by a reception at Government House by Their Excellencies The Governor-General and Madame Vanier.

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Major John K. Hjalmarson

Major John K. Hjalmarson, recently retired staff officer with Canadian Army Headquarters, has accepted a position with the 700,000 member Canadian Automobile Association in Ottawa.

He will head the newly-formed club services division with CAA, which includes direction of the official appointment program of hotels, motels and restaurants by the American Automobile Association in Canada.

Announcement of his appointment was made by John G. McQueen, executive secretary of CAA.

Born and educated in Winnipeg, his career began with the Royal Bank of Canada in 1929. In 1939, Mr. Hjalmarson joined the Canadian Army and went overseas with the First Division in December of that year. He is a graduate of the first Canadian War Staff Course held in England in 1941.

In 1942, he took part in the Dieppe raid and was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

At the end of hostilities, he was with the Governor-General's Foot Guards in the 21st Armoured Regiment.

Following the war, Mr. Hjalmarson held various staff appointments in Canada, including a term with the Lord Strathcona's Horse in Calgary.

He is married to a former Canadian Army nursing sister. They have one son, John Jr.

★

### ELECTED OFFICER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FELLOWS OF THE MAYO FOUNDATION

In the internationally known Mayo Medical Centre of Rochester, Minn., there is an Association of Fellows of the Mayo Foundation comprising about 650 members. At the annual meeting last fall Dr. Frances Horner was elected treasurer. Dr. Horner is a daughter of Agust and Sella Magnusson, formerly of Lundar and Bissett, Man., and now of Saskatoon. She and her husband Dr. Bennett Horner, both graduated in medicine in 1960 from the University of Sask. On graduation they went to a large hospital in Washington, D.C., where they served until last summer when they were given posts in the Mayo Clinic. To be immediately elected to office in the Association of Fellows of the Mayo Foundation augurs well for Frances' future. Dr. Bennett Horner is the son of Senator and Mrs. Ralph B. Horner of Blaine Lake, Sask.

★

**Martin James Bjarnason**, B.A., 1960, formerly of Winnipeg, is now in the Foreign Office of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in Ottawa.

--:--

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**NEWS SUMMARY**

Rev. Robert Jack, a Scot and noted athlete turned Icelandic clergyman and for a period some years ago pastor of the Icelandic Lutheran congregation at Arborg, Man., with his wife Vigdis, a native of Iceland, paid a brief visit to Manitoba in October. On a visit with Mr. Jack's mother in Scotland, they flew to Canada to attend the funeral of Mr. Jack's aunt in Vancouver. Enroute they stopped off briefly in Winnipeg and Arborg to renew acquaintances. Mr. Jack initially, in his early years, went to Iceland to teach soccer and train Icelanders in this essentially English game. He stayed to marry an Icelandic girl and enter the ministry. Needless to say, he is fluent in Icelandic.

★

Miss Unnur A. Kristjansson of Winnipeg topped her class when she received a bachelor of nursing degree in October from McGill University, Montreal. She was awarded the prize of the university's school for graduate nurses alumnae. Miss Kristjansson, daughter of Mrs. Fridrik Kristjansson, 122½ Garfield St. Winnipeg, is a graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital school of nursing and has a nursing education diploma from the University of Manitoba. Miss Kristjansson this fall took up duties as nursing instructor at Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg.

★

David Sigurgeirson received his bachelor of arts degree after writing examinations at the University of British Columbia this fall. He has taken

over duties as a social worker at Dawson Creek and Fort St. John in northern British Columbia where he will remain for a year or more before undertaking further studies. Mr. Sigurgeirson, who is 21, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Sigurgeirson, formerly of Hecla, Man. and now resident at Steveston, B. C.

★

George Cooney in October was elected to the council of Old Kildonan, a suburb of Winnipeg. Mr. Cooney, employed as a government inspector of packing house operations, is the son of Mrs. Johanna Cooney, who is of Icelandic origin, and the late Henry Cooney.

★

Rev. Jon Bjarman, Lutheran pastor at Lundar, Man., this fall accepted a call from the congregation at Laufasi, Eyjarfjord, Iceland. Mr. Bjarman with his wife Hanna and young son Pall left in October for Iceland to take over his new post. Mr. Bjarman, who had been pastor at Lundar for three years, was born, raised and educated in Iceland and came to Canada shortly after his ordination less than four years ago.

★

R. O. Jonasson of Winnipeg in September was appointed sales manager for the Winnipeg branch of the Dominion Bridge Company Limited, succeeding K. R. Ebbert who was transferred to Montreal, Que. where he became sales manager of the company's structural division. Mr. Jonasson had been struc-

tural sales engineer of the Winnipeg branch for five years prior to his present appointment.

★

Dr. J. C. Jonason of Edmonton, an inspector of Alberta high schools, was named president-elect at the annual

convention in September at Charlottetown, P.E.I. of the Canadian Association of School Superintendents and Inspectors. Dr. Kenneth A. Parker of Charlottetown was elected president, succeeding Clare R. MacLeod of Windsor, Ont. Michael Ewanchuk of

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Winnipeg was named regional vice-president.

★

R.C.M.P. Constable A. W. Eyolfson of Winnipegosis, Man. was promoted to the rank of corporal, according to an announcement by Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent John Stevenson in October. Promoted to corporal with Constable Eyolfson was Constable Jack Wakeham of Dauphin, Man.

★

their home in Swan River. They have six sons, Oscar of Swan River and Samuel, Olafur, Charles, Stanley and Thomas, all of the Big Woody district, and three daughters, Bertha, Mrs. Helgi Martinson of Winnipeg, Anne, Mrs. William Linaker and Margaret, Mrs. Jack Edkins, both of Clearwater, Man. A daughter died in 1908 and a son in 1927. There are 27 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Anderson of Ste. 5, Minerva Court, 290 Beverley St., Winnipeg, were at home to their friends and relatives Nov., 19 and 20 on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Both were born in Iceland in 1887 and came with their families to the United States when young. They were married at Seattle, Washington, on Nov 20, 1901, and immediately came to Manitoba to make their home. They farmed at Cypress River for 43 years and for the past 17 years have lived at Glenboro and in Winnipeg. They had four daughters and six sons. Daughters are Mrs. S. E. Johnson of Vancouver, B. C., Mrs. James Dawn, Mrs. Victor Frederickson and Ella, all of Winnipeg, and sons John and Marvin of Vancouver and

## Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. Ogmundur and Mrs. Kristin Brandson of Swan River, Man., were honored in October on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. The celebration took the form of a family gathering Sunday, Oct. 8, at the home of their son Olafur. Mr. Brandson is 91 and Mrs. Brandson 86. They came from Iceland in 1905 and lived first in Winnipeg and at Arborg before moving to the Swan River valley where they farmed in the Big Woody district until their retirement in 1949 to make

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Albert and Joseph of Winnipeg. Two sons, Herbert and Halldor, are deceased. All their children were home for the anniversary. There are 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Jon S. Gillies, 971 Dominion St., Winnipeg, were honored on Oct 24th by their children and friends on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. Both were born in Iceland and came to Canada while young. Mr. Gillies was a Winnipeg grocer for more than 40 years. Over the years they have taken an active part in Icelandic affairs in the city including the Icelandic National League, First Icelandic Lutheran Church and the former Hekla lodge. Mrs. Gillies

was on the editorial board of the publication *Árdís* and active in Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E. They have four children, Franklin, a mechanical engineer at London, Ont., Norman, a

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Winnipeg grocer, Gladys, wife of Sylvan Sommerfield, an Ottawa lawyer, and Emil, a Winnipeg teacher. There are 11 grandchildren.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Ingimundur Sigurdson of Lundar, Man. were honored by scores of friends, relatives and family in July on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary with an open house reception in Lundar Community Hall. Mr. Sigurdson was born in Iceland in 1882 and came to Canada as a young boy. Over the years he fished on both Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba and farmed in the Nordurstjornu district east of Lundar. Mrs. Sigurdson was born in 1879 on Hecla Island in Lake Winnipeg. They were married in Nordurstjornu School. Mrs. Sigurdson is the fifth member of her family to celebrate a golden wedding. One of her brothers celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary last year. Among guests at the reception was Rev. Albert E. Kristjanson of Blaine, Washington, who officiated at the wedding 50 years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdson have two sons, Johann of Lundar and Trausti of San Leandro, California, and two daughters, Mrs. Ari Swainson and Mrs. Ernest Wonko, both of Winnipeg. There are 10 grandchildren.

★

Canada Council Fellowships will make it possible for 51 students from many parts of the world to attend Canadian universities this year. The awards

cover university fees and living expenses for a period of one year, plus return transportation to the student's home. Since 1957, more than 300 graduates from abroad have been brought to Canada to pursue higher subjects under such Canada Council Fellowships

From Canadian Scene

★

**"STAY IN SCHOOL"**

One of the greatest stumbling blocks to advancement and even to steady employment in this scientific age is lack of education. For this reason the advice to young people, which bears repeating again and again is "Stay in School". However, it is not always possible for young people to complete their high school training, despite superior intelligence and learning ability. Many ambitious young folk as well as adults, acquire the additional academic training which will qualify them for university entrance through night courses which are made available at low cost through provincial education departments in many provinces. Others, through University Extension Departments, attend night classes and earn credits which will qualify them for university degrees.

from Canadian Scene

★

That there are jobs which retarded children can do has been demonstrated by the Treasury Department of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government, which every month employs retarded children in the Harrow de Groot School in Regina to place some \$500,000 in social assistance cheques in envelopes for mailing. Last spring the same group of boys and girls placed accident prevention messages in with some 23,000 Regina utility bills.

★

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## Index to Advertisers

Arlington Pharmacy.....	68	Bird Construction Co. Ltd.....	50
Asgeirsson's Ltd. ....	56	Blackwoods Beverages Ltd.....	76
Bardal, A. S. Ltd.....	56	Booth Fisheries of Canada Ltd.....	60
Beaver Moving & Storage.....	71	Broadway Florists .....	56
Benjaminson Construction Co.....	68	Brown & Rutherford .....	54

# Season's Greetings

from the

EDITORIAL BOARD and MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

to

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CHRISTMAS 1961



Canada Safeway Ltd. ....	66	McCurdy Supply Co. Ltd. ....	76
Canadian Wheat Pools .....	64	McDonald Dure Lumber Co. Ltd. ....	60
Century Motors Ltd.....	2	Macdonald Shoe Store .....	72
Chief Home Bakery.....	56	McKague, Sigmar & Co. ....	4
City Hydro .....	62	McLaren Hotel .....	58
Community Hotels .....	8	McLean, J. J. H. & Co.....	58
Community Chevrolet .....	72	Nell's Flower Shop .....	60
Continental Travel Bureau .....	6	North American Lumber Co.....	66
Crescent Creamery .....	68	North Star Co-Op Creamery Assn...	73
Eaton, T. Co. Ltd.....	Back Cover	Orchid Florist .....	70
Eggertson & Eggertson .....	6	Park-Hannesson Ltd. ....	76
Fort Garry Hotel .....	10	Paterson N. M. & Son's Ltd.....	76
Fort William Elevator Co. Ltd....	9	Peerless Laundry & Cleaners Ltd....	54
Free Press Prairie Farmer.....	48	Quintons Ltd. ....	7
Genser Ltd. ....	52	Ramsay-Mathews Ltd. ....	6
Gibbs Drug Store Ltd.....	52	Rich Bros. ....	6
Gimli Medical Centre .....	70	Richardson, James & Son.....	1
Gimli Theatre .....	62	Roberts & Whyte Ltd.....	56
Govt. of Can. R.C.A.F. ....	5	Rudds Tom Boy Store .....	70
Gray Goose Bus Lines Ltd.....	4	Rosicrusian Mysteries .....	62
Greater Winnipeg Gas Co. ....	62	Sargent Electric & Radio Co. ....	8
Guttormson, P. T. ....	70	Soudack Fur Auction's Sales .....	4
Holt Renfrew Co. Ltd. ....	60	Sigurdson Ltd., Arborg .....	70
Hudson Bay Co. Ltd. ....	Cover	Sigurdson, H. & Son Ltd.....	6
I. G. A. Store .....	7	Sigvaldason & Associates .....	68
Independent Fish Co. Ltd. ....	6	Simpson-Sears Ltd. ....	2
Keystone Fisheries Ltd. ....	52	Snowden's Ltd. ....	1
Kirkland Park Hotel .....	58	Standard Dairies Ltd. ....	50
Kristjanson, Dr. G. ....	4	Tallin, Kristjanson, Parker & Co.....	8
Lakeland Daries Ltd. ....	52	Tip Top Meats, Gimli .....	70
Leckie, John Ltd. ....	8	Toastmaster Sales Ltd. ....	52
Leland Hotel .....	58	Thorlakson, Dr. P. H. T. ....	4
Malkin, Dr.'s C. and S.....	4	Thorarinson, S. A. ....	6
Manitoba Bridge and Engineering..	54	Thorkelson, G. H. Jewellers.....	70
Manitoba Rolling Mills Co.....	48	Thorvaldson, Eggertson & Co.....	6
Manitoba Pool Elevators .....	Cover	Toronto-Dominion Bank .....	66
Manitoba Telephone System .....	9	Town & Country Restaurant .....	72
Maple Leaf Purity Mills Ltd.....	50	Town of Gimli .....	64
Marlborough Hotel .....	68	Town of Selkirk .....	64
Martin Paper Products .....	7	Union Loan & Investment Co.....	4
Midwest Net & Twine Co.....	52	United Grain Growers Ltd. ....	3
Meteor, Mercury, Comet.....	4	Viking Printers .....	6
Modern Electric .....	68	Vopni, R. B. & Co. ....	6
Montreal Trust Co. Ltd.....	10	Western Savings & Loan Ass'n Ltd..	58
McCabe Grain Co. Ltd. ....	7	Winnipeg Construction Co. ....	70

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